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ISSUES OF 1868.

Speech of O. P. Morton of Indiana, at Washington, Tuesday Evening, December 31, 1867.

GENTLEMEN OF THE UNION AND FELLOW CITIZENS: In accepting the invitation to address you this evening on the great political issues involved in the Presidential campaign the coming year, I had intended to carefully prepare my address, but ill health and the pressure of official duties have prevented my doing so, and I shall be obliged to deliver my views in an off-hand manner, and the remarks will be confined to what I regard as the issues to be decided by the American people at the next Presidential election.

As I consider the subject, there two are great ideas uppermost in the minds of the American people at the present time, both struggling for supremacy. The first is, the justice and right on the part of the Government and people in putting down the late rebellion by force of arms; the second is, the justice and right of the rebellion and the cause for which the rebels fought. All the questions with which we will have to deal in the contest will be but emanations from these two leading ideas. In other words, the struggle in 1868 will be on the question of the right of the rebellion, and the right of the United States in putting it down, as in 1864.

The man, therefore, who votes for the candidates of the Conservative or the Democratic party, as it may be called, whatever may be his intention to the contrary, will certainly record his vote in favor of the right of that rebellion; and the man who sustains the candidate of the Republican party will unmistakably record his vote on the side of the Government, and its right of crushing out, by force of arms, armed rebellion.

I may here refer to the present condition of the country, and to causes which have operated to increase financial embarrassment, and distract the commercial prosperity of the nation—a condition of affairs to be attributed solely to the fact that the question of reconstruction is not yet settled. And first I would say, it is the persistent efforts on the part of the South and their Democratic allies in the North, that keep up these distractions and hinder the Government from establishing internal peace. Whoever is desirous of peace and prosperity should be in favor of speedy reconstruction; while, on the other hand, the efforts of the opponents of the proposed plan are directly operating to keep nine States in their unfortunate condition, and so many labors to perpetuate these deplorable difficulties.

Another source of trouble is apparent in the fact that since the 1st of August, 1865, the Government has not collected a dollar of its national debt. It is true, you see in referring to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to this matter, the statement that only $300,000 000 is the amount of the reduction of the public debt; but it is transpired that over $200,000,0 0 of our portion of the unliquidated debt proper has been paid; and though this amount is not so reported, it should nevertheless be deducted as a part of the public debt, for it has been extorted from the people, and, I may say, wasted in paying expenses that ought not to have been incurred.

Need we wonder that our people are restless under such an administration of affairs, when such an amount of money has been directly taken from the North to pay a debt which the South should have long since been in position to be made to pay a part of; a debt which they forced upon the country by rebellious acts, and which they should be compelled to liquidate as an evidence of their loyalty now.

It may sound very well to the ears of foreign governments to hear that we have been able to raise so large an amount by taxation; but while they may admire our ostensible ability to bear the liabilities of the nation, they may reasonably despise our seeming sagacity. And I take occasion here to say, as I have frequently declared my views on this subject, that we can be far more prosperous and happy if we had simply paid the interest on that debt. Why should we be in a hurry to pay the enormous amount which burdens the people with such heavy taxation? Have we not already given half a million lives in putting down the rebellion—in restoring peace to the nation? Have we not a large amount of State, county, city and town debts to pay, growing out of that war? Have we not already done enough in our day and generation, without being crushed down by the weight of special taxation?

The policy which has been commenced, of endeavoring to pay off the national debt rapidly, in the present condition of affairs, I cannot but consider as most ruinous and disastrous in its consequences.

Then, again, we have added to our troubles the policy inaugurated by the Secretary of the Treasury, in the contraction of the currency, which has served to restrain commercial enterprise, undermine the trade of the people, and keep the money market in an unsettled condition, and confidence will never be restored until the bill which is now before Congress, intended to prohibit the Secretary exercising this power, is passed.

It is true, we want retrenchment—reform—but we want real and substantial retrenchment, for the expenses of the Government are indeed enormous. We do not want that kind of retrenchment that gives to clerks only starving salaries, nor that style of kind which will prevent a Senator from getting paper enough on which to write his letters, but we do want retrenchment in the larger items of our public expenses; and the time has come, in my opinion, that of retrenchment can be commenced without injury to the affairs of the Government.

We have now an army of fifty thousand men; and we have a navy that is much larger than is necessary for the present necessities of the time, and I think the time is at hand when both can be diminished, and thereby lessen our expenses millions of dollars. Very many of our larger vessels now in commission can be sold, and laid up at the navy yard, and I trust before long the army can be reduced to at least one-half its present numbers.

The purchase of Alaska from the Russian Government can be justified on considerations of high political importance, and on considerations of great commercial importance for the future. It is necessary that we should have such a position for the Government to command of the western portion of the nation; but I cannot see the necessity of spending seven and one-half millions of dollars in gold for the purchase of St. Thomas, which may be truly said to be the very birth place of the yellow fever, and a locality so often made desolate by hurricanes and earthquakes.

It is important that we should fund our national debt, and put the bonds in such a shape, if possible, that they may pay a lower rate of interest. I do not know that this can be done at present, but at the same time no one can doubt for a moment that such a policy is desirable.

The question has been agitated already in a number of States to have the right of taxing the bonds, and whether it be constitutional or not, it is not right that the Government should directly enforce a system of taxation, which deprives the people of several States of money that would be far better appropriated in paying the debts of those States.

The Democratic party, and in speaking of it I may as well state what constitutes the strength of this party, for it is composed of the Democratic party of the North, the whole of the South, and a few converts from the Republican party since the close of the war. It has its financial scheme to relieve the country of the debt, which is in fact the result of the party action which brought on the war and made the debt; and, though it professes to have the great remedy for our national financial troubles, I cannot myself think so, unless the remedy is based upon the hypothesis that the "chair of the dog is good for the bite." But we think that Congress will settle upon some policy that will be satisfactory to the whole nation; and so far as any attempt on the part of the Democratic party to benefit the financial condition of the country is concerned, they may just as well make up their minds that the whole matter will be adjusted without their assistance.

I said in the commencement of my remarks that there are two ideas uppermost in the minds of the people.

The first of these will, as I have already said, enter into the issues of the coming campaign. If the idea prevails that the Government was right in putting down the rebellion; if it was right in putting forth every energy that could be suggested for the accomplishment of this purpose, then you, soldiers and sailors, who bore a part in the struggle for the preservation of the national existence, will certainly feel that you have not only acted wisely, but that you have borne an honorable part in the services rendered your country in the hour of its peril.

But, on the other hand, should the Democratic party succeed, and I trust in God it may not—that the people of this great nation will avert such a calamity by their votes in that campaign—then will it be to a disgrace and a dishonor to have been a member of the Union army, and the places of trust will revert to the rebels, and their names occupy the position of honor in the pages of history.

One question we have yet to meet in this campaign is, the manner in which the Southern States shall be fully restored with all of their political rights and privileges as States, and the manner in which these blessings may be fully enjoyed by all.

The question is not whether that power shall be divided between loyal and disloyal men—whether it shall be conferred upon blacks and whites, or upon whites alone, thirteen fifteenths of whom are rebels, and bore a prominent part in the war against the Union, but we insist that the power, when it is conferred, should be so divided that its preponderance shall not be on the side of disloyal men, nor do we ask all we should even in granting this; for it does not exclude those who have borne arms in the late war against the country, but we do demand that the power shall be conferred in such a manner that blacks and whites may have a voice in the State government and on the question of reconstruction.

It is true, the present law of Congress disfranchises only a small number of those who engaged in the rebellion. It does not disfranchise the petty officers or soldiers, but that class of men who had once sworn allegiance to the Constitution in offices of trust, and this class can not exceed 15,000 persons.

When President Johnson issued his proclamation disfranchising those who had participated in the rebellion, it included not less than fourteen classes, numbering between 250,000 and 280,000 men; but the Congressional system of disfranchisement will apply to only 15,000, and not to exceed 50,000 men.

We have heard of late much about an oppressed people. We are told by Democratic orators and by the newspapers of the Democratic party in all parts of the country, that the people of the South are downtrodden and oppressed. Do they who prate about oppression bear in mind that these are the very people who, but a few years since, arrayed themselves in arms against the nation—whose actions have cost us over half a million of lives, the very people who developed the war that has left us as a legacy a debt of thousands of millions of dollars, with an almost incalculable amount yet to liquidate, not to speak of the untold suffering and sorrow that has been thrust upon the people of the North? And now we are charged with being oppressors and tyrants, because they have not been admitted to full political rights. And do you call this oppression? Can you ignore the fact that they were the projectors of a rebellion, guilty of treason, and plotters against the life of the nation? And are these the men who are to be welcomed back as citizens of the United States? Do they have the right to run from the battle-field to the ballot-box, and declare who shall be their representatives in Congress—to abandon their arms and resume the rights of loyal citizens—to wield again the control of the National Government?

Yet these are the people whose agony is in the throats of the Democratic party, and I take it upon myself to say there is neither sense nor justice in it. When they talk about oppression they forget they are favoring those who brought on the trouble and bathed the land in blood.

The law prevails in all well regulated communities that crime shall be punished, and a sense of justice demands that outrages upon the laws and the rights of the people shall be severely punished. What is it about the present State governments that have been ignored in Congressional acts. Can you tell me by whom they were formed, if not by the proclamation of the President of the United States? and if you will read the elections in Virginia, North and South Carolina, you will find that less than one-third of the white voters took part in forming the constitutions of the present States. The delegates elected then, and they have never been submitted for ratification to the people. Nor have they half the moral right that the constitutions have which have been more recently formed. Those formed in 1865 contained certain conditions, such as prohibiting slavery, prohibiting the payment of the debt contracted during the late war; provisions that were required by the proclamation of President Johnson. But yet they have never been ratified, and were the Democratic and Representatives of these States admitted into our Congressional halls, they would be cast aside and ignored, as they had never been ratified—and that I know would be the course pursued.

The struggle, therefore, on the part of the Democratic party, North and South, as I have spoken, will be in 1868, for the restoration of these States to their position, and the reconstruction of the affairs of these States on that basis.

If you are prepared to say that blacks and loyal whites are not fairly entitled to defeat the rebels, then vote the Democratic ticket. But if you are in favor of impartial suffrage, and giving rights to black and white, then vote the Republican ticket.

There are numerous other questions wrapt up in these leading ideas I have announced. The first one I shall mention is the payment for slaves emancipated during the war. And though this has not been declared as yet to be a question of the issue, I am as firmly convinced it is to be as though I read it in the writ[illegible] tion platform of the Democratic party.

The States of Maryland and Kentucky have already provided for this, in anticipation of the success of the Democratic party at the next election. [Here Mr. Morton read from the Constitution of this State as originally and from a report of the proceedings of the Kentucky State Legislature, to substantiate the statement made.]

Georgia also provided for this; and although other Southern States may be silent on this subject, they will be ready to meet the question when it is time.

The Democratic party of the South will be in a unit on the question, and now let me show that the Democratic party of the North are ready to meet them. I base my assertion on the fact that the members of this party voted with but a single exception, in the House amendments when they were before Congress, and Democratic newspapers have denounced those amendments with one voice; so it is safe to say that in the Senate when they can secede to the South everything claimed by them, and if they do not, their action will be very different from what it has been in years past; for I never knew of a demand made by the South that was not heartily responded to by the Northern portion of that party. Should the Democratic party come into power, the payment for the slaves emancipated may be considered a settled fact.

You remember when the question was up in Congress to abolish slavery in 1862, and again in 1864, the Democratic members in both Houses were then united in favor of paying for every slave emancipated, and it was denounced as morally wrong to take a slave even from a rebel, and not fairly compensate the owner for the loss; and I say again, this question is inevitably involved in the general issues of 1868.

Another question involved, that will follow just as certain, and that is the assumption and payment of the rebel war debt. I ask you as reasoning and thinking men when the representatives of the South are admitted to Congress, and are called upon to vote upon appropriation bills, do you think they would vote to tax themselves for our debt and not provide for their own?

The Northern States staked their financial power in the Government bonds, and the South risked all she had in the prosecution of the war, and lost all. And you may expect, you may demand of the Democratic party into power, that provision will be made for the payment of that debt; but I am glad to say that not until then will it be thought of.

The Democratic party were opposed to our debt being contracted in its incipiency, and you may remember that a prominent member of that party warned the people not to buy the bonds, as they would prove worthless on their hands. They were hostile then to the debt, as the Southern wing of the Democratic party are now to being compelled to help pay it. So that the demand on the part of the South to provide for the payment of the debt of the South will be as surely conceded as the demand is made.

I come to another issue that is also involved in the contest—the pensioning of rebel soldiers, and the widows and orphans of those who fell fighting for the rebellion. Does any sensible portion of the people of Maryland indicate the feeling which prevails against the soldiers who were members of regiments in the Union army? Can a Union soldier be elected to office? Is he not proscribed in business and society? I ask if Union men, who are lawyers or physicians, and any success in the practice of their profession? Are they not proscribed on account of their sentiments? Does not the same condition of affairs exist in Kentucky? I see here to-night a gentleman who can tell you about that much better than I—who knows from observation and observation what the feeling is there. Rebels, and rebels, are only elected to office. The presence of Union men is nowhere tolerated, but their position is made uncomfortable, and, if possible, to rid the State of their presence.

Sir, if you give the power of reconstruction into the hands of rebels, you will produce the same condition of affairs in all the Southern States. And you may ask, what do I argue from all this? I will tell you. When the Democratic party come into power, and when you suppose the representatives from the South will vote for pensioning the soldiers and widows of the North, and not provide for their own in the South? Is it human nature, I ask, for men to do such things? And when you bring them into power, their rebel soldiers will as surely be placed on the same footing with the Union soldiers of the North. This question, then, I say, is involved in the issues of the coming campaign.

The point I make here to-night is the inevitable consequence of the Democratic party coming into power. Some men may like the financial policy of the party, and vote for it solely on that account; but let them remember that they are voting to elevate the rebel soldier to the same position as those who fought to preserve the Union.

The military policy of the party is foreshadowed in the order promulgated by General Hancock on assuming command of the Fifth Military District; and as it has been presented to Congress by the President for its admiration, I think that criticism upon it is perfectly fair. I will read the order, [The order was read, as has been published.] This idea is, like the apples of the dead sea, fair to the eye, but crumbles to powder if but touched to the lip.

The noticeable feature of this order is that it does not mention the subject of reconstruction, for which, by authority of Congress, he is sent there and empowered to carry out. He goes on to say that the civil rights of the people must not be interfered with by military rule, and openly declares by this order that the very purpose for which he was sent there is to be superseded and ignored.

Mr. Morton then read from acts of Congress defining the authority and duties of commanders of the military districts. By these I show that this order is in contradiction and defiance of the laws enacted by Congress. The very State governments, which, by these acts, are abrogated and declared illegal, are the ones which General Hancock, by his advent, has regarded in a general order; Congress, to be explicit, has, at a later day, defined itself on this subject, and declared, if these State governments were allowed to exist, illegal and unauthorized as they are, it would only be through the sufferance of the military commanders.

But General Hancock expresses open contempt for Congressional authority, and bows allegiance to the civil authority of the State of Louisiana, and implies thereby the recognition of a State Government that has been declared illegal and unauthorized expressly by Congress. What does he mean when he expresses himself about civil liberty? It looks very well, but what does it mean in this connection? It means that loyal men shall be tried and condemned by rebel juries. But it is said they will have justice done them. When has ever heard of the murder of a single Union man in the South having been ferreted out, or the guilty punished?

I admit the *habeas corpus* is a right dear to the people of the country, and should not be interfered with except in time of war, when its force would be antagonistic to the interests of the Government. But what does the writ of *habeas corpus* mean as seen in the eyes of General Hancock, and expressed in this order? What does it mean, if it does not say to the rebel judge, you are clothed with full power to demand the release of every man arrested by military authority, applied, of course, to the oppression of the loyal men of that State? And all this in the name of law and justice and right. Do you believe that it is meted out to them? Let the massacre at Memphis and the horrible tragedy at New Orleans answer that, and think of it, that order was written on the very spot where that bloody tragedy was enacted, an account of which sent a thrill of horror into the heart of every being in Christendom—that order which declares that this power shall be directed only to sustain their laws and governments. I read that order with mingled sorrow and contempt. General Hancock was a noble member of the Union army, and his record one that any man might well be proud of. He was wounded in the service of his country, and justly earned the laurels borne by him from many a battle-field, but I saw that when he lent his powers to the cause of the enemies of his country, and those who ought still to be his enemies, that his laurels would wither, and his name go down amid the condemnations of a people whose honor he had insulted.

The great questions of the campaign in 1868 are, then, I repeat, the maintenance of this Government, the justice of the war, or the right of the rebellion. And these are the questions which are to be decided: 1868 is to determine whether this Government is to remain in the hands of Union men, or to be allowed to pass into the hands of Southern men.

My voice is growing weak and my strength failing me; so that I shall have to close my remarks, thanking you, ladies and gentlemen, for the attention you have given me.

At the conclusion of the speech, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Morton, after which the meeting adjourned.

STATE NEWS.

The *Franklin Repository*, at Chambersburg, one of the ablest newspapers in the State, entered upon the seventy-fifth year of its existence on Wednesday. Messrs. McClure & Stoner make an excellent paper and deserve success.

The house of Dr. John Edgar, a poor cripple, unable to walk, residing in Harrison City Westmoreland county, was entered on the 27th of December, between the hours of 12 and 6 o'clock, A. M., while he and his wife were last asleep in bed, and robbed of a pocket book containing about seventeen or eighteen dollars. The pocket book containing the money was locked up in a small electrical machine, under the bed on which they lay.

On the 18th ult., Mrs. Elizabeth Bogert died at the residence of her son, in Salisbury, Lehigh county, Pa., at the good old age of one hundred years, one month and twenty days. She was born on the 28th of October, 1767, was married in 1793, leaves five surviving children, forty-seven grandchildren, eighty-eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

The forthcoming annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of Lancaster county will show that the Commissioners have, during the year just ended, paid off $52,000 of the debt of the county. At the beginning of the fiscal year the indebtedness was $215,000. This has been reduced to $149,000.

Messrs. William and Daniel Bement, the unfortunate men who were so frightfully bruised and scalded by the explosion of the boiler on Lease No. 13, of Benninghoff Hill, on Saturday afternoon last, have since died. Mr. Daniel Bement expired at ten o'clock on Saturday night, and Mr. William Bement lingered until seven o'clock on the morning of the 7th.

The Masonic fraternity of Philadelphia have purchased a property one hundred and fifty by two hundred and fifty feet at the corner of Broad and Filbert streets, that city, upon which they propose to erect a temple the full size of the property and three stories high, to cost three-quarters of a million dollars. The contract has been let and the corner stone will be laid on next St. John's day, and the building to be completed in two years. It will be one of the finest as well as the most costly structures of the kind in the world.

A sad accident occurred at Connéautville on Monday. Henry Frazer, only son of Dr. J. B. Frazer, and George F. Mantor, only son of Col. Frank Mantor, were skating on a pond which supplies water to one of the brickyards, when the first named broke through the ice. George Mantor nobly undertook to rescue his playmate, but failed, and both were drowned. They were both very bright, interesting lads—Frazer ten years old, and Mantor almost twelve—and were much loved in the community.

On the morning of the 19th ult., the old Hall grist mill, near Connéautville, Crawford county, was totally destroyed by fire, Mr. Henry Christy, the miller, perishing in the flames. The deceased, who was upwards of seventy-six years of age, and had been a soldier in the war of 1812, lived in the mill with his son William and his family.

The oil refinery of Messrs. Ward & Brown in Erie, was destroyed by fire on Monday evening. Loss, $1,500.

The Meadville *Republican* says that the late pastor of the Baptist Church at Spring, in that county, was waited on by a respectable citizen the other day and notified that he could have one hour to leave town, and that if he did not do so he would be treated to a neat suit of tar and feathers. Without asking any questions or making any defiance he started. Improper intimacy with a young girl of his church is the alleged cause of the summary notice. According to her statements they were planning to elope. She is deeply grieved over the sudden departure of her pious minister. Neighbors have kindly provided for the wife and family of the recent pastor, and much sympathy is expressed for them.

Doctor J. H. Gibon, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Private Secretary of Governor Geary, vice J. R. Dunglison.

The Dauphin county, Pa., almshouse is crowded to its utmost capacity.

The large and handsome Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, caught fire from a defective flue on Wednesday night, while a fireman's ball was in progress. Had it not been for the presence of the firemen, the building would doubtless have been destroyed.

Governor Geary has appointed General Provost Major General of the First Division Pennsylvania militia. He has been connected with the volunteer service during the past thirty years, and is one of the original of the Gray Reserve Regiment, being now its colonel. At the call of the Corn Exchange Association he took command of their regiment, the One Hundred and Eighteenth, and when Col. Allandorf, who was disabled by wounds he was transferred to the Sixteenth Veteran Reserves.

It is said that all the oil pipes that were put across the Allegheny this fall have been carried away by the ice, save perhaps Munhall's. This will not only be a heavy loss, but will prove a serious inconvenience to shippers. But some arrangement will be made to remedy this accident, so that the business of the Allegheny Valley Railroad will not be materially affected.

Meetings have been held in Mercersburg, Chambersburg and Gettysburg successive evenings of the past week, as a part of the general movement to secure in the United States constitution a distinct recognition of Almighty God as the source of all power and authority in civil government, and of Jesus Christ, as the ruler of nations, and the supreme authority of the divine law.

A fatal shooting case occurred in Philadelphia on New Year's Day. A party of young men dressed in fantastical costume, started out on a tour among their friends, to engage in something like "mummer's sports." One of them, named George W. Rumel, was the spokesman of the party, and delivered a set speech at each house visited. At one of the houses, after Rumel had concluded his humorous address, George W. Mayberry, of the party, walked up behind Rumel and discharged a pistol at a tall hat he wore. The pistol, it is said, had no ball or shot in it, but the wad passed through the hat and into the brain, causing death in a very short time. The deceased leaves a wife and several children. Mayberry gave himself up to the police and was held to await the result of the Coroner's inquest.

It is rumored that Bishop Stevens is about to purchase a residence at Fountain Hill, in South Bethlehem, Pa.

Hon. John Edwards, member of the Legislature from Lawrence county, was made the recipient a few days ago of a beautiful gold watch and chain, as a parting testimonial of the esteem and regard of the employees of Dithridge & Co., at the Lawrence Iron Works, New Castle, with whom he has been long associated.

Mr. Charles H. Bligh, of Brown's Mills, Mercer county, attempted to commit suicide a few days since by cutting his throat. His recovery is considered doubtful.

William Gleason, one of the oldest citizens of Conneautville, Crawford county, died on Christmas, aged eighty-two years. Timothy Beels, of Spring, same county, died a few days since, aged ninety years. He had lived on the same farm over fifty years.

The Meadville people are rejoicing over the receipt of coal from the Ætna Block Mines, Mercer county, which is said to be of superior quality. A branch railway of three miles connects the mines with the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, and the facilities for shipment are excellent.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has reduced the working time in its shops, in Harrisburg, to nine hours per day. The new order went into effect Thursday. This change causes a reduction of ten per cent. in the wages of the employees. The shops are now closed at five o'clock each evening.

Thursday afternoon about two o'clock, Maj. Charles C. Davis accosted Samuel H. Ettla near the State street gate of the Capitol grounds, Harrisburg, and administered a severe cowhiding for being concerned in the libelous publication, entitled a "Black List for Texas."

THE PRESIDENCY.

Senator Wilson on General Grant.

Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, communicates to the *Independent* an article on the Presidency, from which we quote the following:

The Presidential contest of 1868, with its vast issues, will stir the nation to its profoundest depths. The Democracy, without responsibilities, under the leadership of men of talent, tact and experience, will put forth a gigantic effort to win back lost power. The Republican party, upon which rest responsibilities, has in its ranks able, tried and true men—civil and military—men whose names are honorably associated with the country's struggles for unity and liberty. Who among the honored men, of proved capacity and tried fidelity, shall be selected to marshal the Republican hosts to victory? Whose nomination, in advance, make the assurance of victory doubly sure? Above personal aspirations and ambitions, above local pride and attachments, above all association and interests, there comes from the body of the three millions of Republicans to whom the success or the old cause is so dear the prompt and emphatic response, "Ulysses S. Grant!" These masses see, with the clear instinct of patriotism, that the great soldier would bring into the impending contest the weight of his great name and illustrious achievements, his solid and practical judgment, his conceded integrity, his modesty that never vaunts his own deeds, and his rare magnanimity that ever gracefully recognizes the deeds of other Generals, soldiers and civilians. These unselfish masses, with their practical sagacity, see that the ranks of the Republicans, in the struggle through which duty has led them, have been weakened by timidity and treachery; that the sacred cause now needs to be reinforced, as it so often has been, by drafts from the most advanced men of the Democracy, and that the selection of General Grant will rally tens of thousands to the cause their hearts love

The military achievements of Gen. Grant are gratefully acknowledged, his administrative capacity is recognized, his generous views of public policy commended. Earnest Republicans, however, whose fidelity to vital issues cannot be questioned, but whose distrust of public men has been quickened by the shameful conduct of those they have trusted and followed, are anxious concerning the sentiments of Gen. Grant upon those vital issues, the right settlement of which can alone bring permanent security and repose to the nation. The just fame of the special favorite of the party, and the personal integrity of Gen. Grant afford ample assurance that their and his sentiments and opinions will be distinctly avowed in the coming canvass. Should he not be elected—in the summer of 1868—Gen. Grant would come his camp, on the banks of the Mississippi, to his tried friend Washburne:

"I have never been a pro-slavery man; but I try to judge justly of what I see. I made up my mind when this war commenced that the North and South could only live together in peace and harmony as equals or as masters, and not by being a free nation. Slavery, the corner stone of the so-called Confederacy, is knocked out, and it will take more men to keep black men as slaves than to put down the rebellion. Much as I dislike a run on the Treasury at any pause until this question of slavery is forever settled."

This patriotic avowal fully committed Gen. Grant to the policy of emancipation. He was, too, for the re-election of Abraham Lincoln, declaring to his nearest friends that his defeat would be a dreadful calamity to the country. Since the close of the war he has been in close accord with Congress, in its efforts to protect the loyal, black and white, secure the equal rights of all, and restore the rebel States to their practical relations to the Union, under the Constitutional Amendment was before Congress, he was for its submission to the people, and when it was submitted he urged the leading men of the rebel States to accept it. When, after its final rejection by the rebel legislatures, he pressed Southern men, who sought his advice, to reconsider their action, adopt it, and give to Congress the feeling that it will not be necessary to call the reconstructed legislatures together again, then men he said, "You must look to Congress! the Republicans have the power; consult them; do not seek the counsels of men in the North who opposed the war; look to the people—not that class of men with power; the more you look to them for advice the more exacting Congress will be and ought to be; the rejection of the amendment and the legislation against the freedmen on the ground of color, denial of universal suffrage, and you should at once give it." Some of these men were wise enough to accept and act upon his advice. To the reconstruction measures of Congress, the leading, overshadowing issue of the day—Gen. Grant gave his earnest support, and he has zealously striven to carry the legislation of Congress into effects. On the reconstruction policy Gen. Grant has been and now is in accord with Congress and the Republican party. So anxious was he to have that policy promptly carried into effect that he urgently pressed upon members of Congress the vital importance of so arranging the adjournments as to be able to meet at any time, should the needs of the country require it.

Surveyor General.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Permit me to suggest in your valuable paper the name of Col. Jacob M. Campbell as one worthy of presentation before the Republican Convention of 1868, for renomination for the office of Surveyor General.

Col. Campbell is not, so far as I know, an aspirant for the office, but his eminent fitness for the position, his unparalelled success in bringing order out of confusion while discharging the duties of that office, the profits accruing to the State by a faithful supervision of its landed interests, and the strength of his name with the party and with the people, are all suggestive of his renomination. His reports to the Legislature furnish abundant statistics on which to base his claims, but the strongest claim, perhaps, is that a pure and disciplined name would be a tower of strength to the party during the coming Presidential campaign. We are not among those who believe that the Republican party is to-day weaker than it ever was, but we firmly believe that its reverses in many places within the past year were owing, in a great measure, to the selection of tickets for office who were so utterly destitute of moral influence as to result in their defeat, as well as the temporary injury of the party who sustained them. The coming campaign will require the best and good men be nominated for every office of importance in both State and Nation—men whose past acts will bear public scrutiny.

We therefore ask your influence in thus early presenting the name and claims of Col. Campbell, in order that the public press, which is the true exponent of the will of the people, may know whom the people will claim as their choice, and echo back that will to the organization convention in order that it may act intelligently.

The success of a Presidential candidate in each State depends to a great extent upon the character of the State nominees, and hence we present Col. Campbell's name firmly believing that both his military and civil career as an officer will bear the test of the closest criticism.

It is not our intention in this letter to enter into the details of Col. Campbell's services. They have already borne the ordeal of one campaign, which time he has added to his record in his chaplet in the department of the land office. We trust we are but reiterating the sentiments of the entire people, when we state that no predecessor in that department ever discharged the duties pertaining to that office with more fidelity and greater success. Honor, then, to those to whom honor is due.

"JOHNSTOWN."

January 2, 1868.

Nature.

[By R. W. Emerson, in the January Atlantic.]

Here stretches out of sight, out of conception even, this vast Nature, daunting, bewildering, but all penetrable, all self-familiar—an unbroken unity—and the mind of man is a key to the whole. He finds that the universe, as Newton said, "was made at one cast," the mass is like the atom—the same chemistry, gravity, and conditions. The asteroids are the chips of an old star, and a meteoric stone is a chip of an asteroid. As language is in the alphabet, so is in entire Nature—the play of all its laws—in one atom. The good wit finds the law from a single observation—the law and its limitations and its correspondences—as the farmer finds his cattle by a footprint. "State the sun and you state the planets and conversely."

While its power is offered to his hand, its laws to his science, not less its beauty speaks to his taste, imagination and sentiment. Nature is sensitive, refining, elevating. How cunningly she hides every wrinkle of her inconceivable antiquity under roses and violets, and morning dew! Every inch of the mountains is scarred by unimaginable convulsions, yet the new day is purple with the bloom of youth and love. Look out into the July night, and see the broad belt of silver flame which flashes up the half of heaven, fresh and delicate as the bonfires of the meadow flies. Yet the power of numbers cannot compute its enormous age—lasting as space and time—embosomed in time and space. And what are they, time and space? Our first problems, which we ponder all our lives through, and leave where we found them; whose outrunning immensity, the old Greeks believed, astonished the gods themselves; of whose dizzy vastitudes all the worlds of God are a mere dot on the margin; impossible to deny, impossible to believe. Yet the moral element in man counterposes this dismaying immensity, and bereaves it of its power.

Our Supremacy in Cotton.

Capable judges affirm that we have already lost our place as a cotton-grower in the world's market, never to be regained. Without agreeing to the latter qualification, since it is more or less speculation, we are yet compelled to admit the unwelcome fact of our commercial displacement. What seems to clinch the nail which circumstances and bad management have already driven through, British machinery has been so much improved that the Egyptian staple is successfully worked up so as to answer for the long-fibred sea island cotton which it was once our boast could be produced nowhere else in the world.

Was Gold a Part of the Bargain?

The Hon. E. G. Spalding, of Buffalo, New York, and a member of Congress when the greater part of the public debt was created, disputes the assertion of Senator Sherman that no construction was given to the loan law by Secretary Chase whereby we are bound to pay in gold. Mr. Spalding proceeds to relate some circumstances which will be of interest at this time. We quote from his letter:

Secretary Chase, who negotiated this loan, decided as early as December, 1862, that a fair construction of the loan act under which the funded debt was contracted, required us to pay actual money—gold and silver—on all the funded debt of the Government; that a pretended payment in a other promise of the United States was no payment, but merely changing the form of the debt. In other words that a payment of the bonds in gre backs would be merely substituting the debt of one form for that of another form of legal tender notes bearing no interest, for bonds bearing six per cent. interest, which would be manifestly unjust. This question came up on the issue of money that should be provided for paying that part of the funded debt, prior to the year 1881, and this decision was then made and published. The Committee of Ways and Means, in December, 1867, a short time before its meeting, decided to know whether any further legislation would be necessary to insure the payment of coin on that part of the funded debt falling due with in a few days. In order to ascertain in a formal manner what construction the Secretary of the Treasury would put upon the law, a sub-committee from the Committee of Ways and Means was appointed, consisting of Mr. Hooper, Mr. Morrill (Vermont), to confer with the Secretary on the subject. The sub-committee called upon the Secretary at the Treasury Department, and after a full and free conference, the Secretary decided that a fair construction of the law required us to pay "in good faith, gold for gold and dollar for dollar," and that no further legislation was necessary to have

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1868.

An interesting article on the Northern Pacific Railroad will be found on the third page.

The report that the friends of HORATIO SEYMOUR in New York are moving to bring him out as a Presidential candidate, should astonish no one. Although that gentleman not long since wrote a letter which seemed to take him off the track, it would be in perfect accord with the tactics of the school of politics to which he belongs, to turn up a candidate at any time.

OHIO is for PENDLETON, and just now Ohio is in good standing in the Democratic church. The State Convention at Columbus Wednesday declared that "GEORGE H. PENDLETON is the unanimous choice of the Democracy of Ohio for the next President of the United States," and the presiding officer was directed to publish the fact to the four corners of the earth. Whereupon Mr. PENDLETON himself was introduced and spoke at length. This action will tend to make things rather lively in the Democratic camp.

OULD IRELAND.

Whatever difference of opinion or of feeling may exist among us in regard to Fenianism, we suppose that there is little or none in regard to the duty that lies on England to change her governmental policy towards Ireland. It can never be agreeable to a people of one race and religion to be ruled by people coming from beyond sea, who belong to another race and profess another religion. This circumstance must always be a grievance to the Catholic and Celtic population of the Emerald Isle so long as England shall continue to rule it. The only way to abate this source of annoyance would be to expel the government which has controlled the island for six hundred years, a consummation not likely to be witnessed in our time. There are, however, certain causes of complaint in the present English Government in Ireland that could be easily removed, and which would have a powerful influence in calming the irritation of the Irish, if not in removing it entirely. For example, at present the only two institutions in Ireland where a university degree can be taken are, first Trinity College, Dublin, an institution under the management of the established church, and in which the only form of religion recognized is the Protestantism of the established church, and second, one or other of the Queen's colleges. To the pious Catholic training in one of the Queen's colleges is quite as objectionable as in Trinity College, inasmuch as no particular form of religion receives countenance or recognition. With the feeling widely prevailing in this country about college degrees, this would not seem an intolerable grievance, but no such indifference on the subject exists or can exist in portion of the United Kingdom. There is a university degree is a civil privilege, conferring rights, immunities and social dignity. There are numerous positions of profit and honor accessible only to those who have obtained the coveted distinction, and the right of writing themselves A. B. or A. M. or L. L. D. In this matter we are far in advance of the folks over the water. A widely extended and deeply seated belief prevails there that any man who has obtained one of these degrees, is necessarily what they call "a gentleman and a scholar," whereas we, on this side of the Atlantic, have long ago got over that, as well as many other pleasing and useful illusions.

Another grievance of which the Irish with reason complain consists in the mode of land-tenure. We may not assume that our readers are either lawyers enough, or enough interested in law to take any satisfaction in the explanation of this. Perhaps we are not lawyers enough to explain it satisfactorily. Let it suffice to say there is a great and real wrong in the matter. But the heavy and crowning cause of complaint of the Irish Catholics is the Established Church. It is impossible even for a liberal Protestant to read without indignation and pity a mere statement of the hardships and causes of disgust involved in this establishment. It is, however, the grievence with which all readers in this country are best acquainted, and there is no occasion to enter into an elucidation of the subject. In view of these undeniable wrongs of Ireland—the mother island of many among us—it is highly satisfactory to read the admirable speech of Mr. GLADSTONE delivered at Southport a short time ago. He candidly admits the wrongs of Ireland, and shows plainly enough that he is ready to do something for their removal. From the applause with which his remarks were received, and from other indications, we need not mention, there is reason to hope that some measures will be speedily initiated for the soothing of the sores of "Ould Ireland." It is, to be sure, a pity that these decided indications of a desire to take steps in the right direction, should appear contemporaneously with the demonstration of Fenian depravity and spirit. Mr. GLADSTONE, however, is certain, and we may well be so too, that the best portion of the Catholics of Ireland, and of those who sympathize with them elsewhere, loathe, abhor and detest the crimes of these Fenians—and will recognize in the Reforms now adopted, not the outcome of terror but the culmination of wise and humane thoughts which have been entertained for years by many of the best and most magnanimous Englishmen of the century.

Surveyor General Campbell's Report.

The report of Surveyor General Campbell, of this State, is an interesting document, and shows that the business of the Land Office is improving under his management. During the fiscal year ending November 30, 1867, the following business was transacted: New warrants issued, 261; patents on new warrants, 281; patents on actual settlement, 2; excess tickets, 21; certificates to State Treasurer, 565; liens and mortgages paid, 6; purchase money paid into State Treasury, $13,807 14; warrant and patent fees, $4,069; contractors' fees, $9 92; copying fees, $2,278 88. Total paid into the State Treasury, $20,164 89, or a greater amount than was paid the preceding year. It is confidently expected that after the liens for unpatented lands are entered up, the receipts into the Treasury will largely exceed the annual revenue from the same source for many years past.

A great deal of labor has been expended by the clerical force of the department in getting up a list of the unpatented lands of the State, and calculating the amounts due thereon. Thus far it has been found there are due $1,251,036 67 on 12,131 warrants, applications and other office rights, amounting to 4,134,443 acres, and $81,000 on 175 mortgages and special liens, or 26,047 acres—making the total sum due on returned surveys, mortgages and special liens, $1,332,036 67. Warrants and applications have been issued for 21,332 tracts, covering 5,100,972 acres, upon which no returns of survey have been received—making the total number of unpatented tracts, 43,638, covering 9,377,462 acres. The unpatented lots in Beaver, Bedford, Erie, Franklin, Warren, &c., have yet to be ascertained.

The Surveyor General suggests to the Legislature that the law for collecting amounts due for unpatented lands should be so improved as to make it thoroughly effective.

Relative to the Agricultural College Land Scrip, the report shows that the 780,000 acres donated to the State realized $439,186 80, of which sum $335,500 is invested in Pennsylvania bonds of 1867; $30,000 in Pennsylvania bonds of 1861 (war loan) and $126,000 in United States 5-20s, January and July series. The premium paid on these investments amounted to $18,800 30. $43,886 50 is to be devoted to the purchase of experimental farms. The interest and premium realized on the above investments amounted to $30,161 35, which was paid to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania.

The French Emperor is fast drifting into an unpleasant predicament in various ways. While pretending to have preserved strict neutrality during the war of the rebellion, he sent the United States bringing an action against certain ship-builders and and bankers of France to get from them an enormous sum they received for building vessels for the rebel States, and a further sum as an indemnity for the expense to which our country was subjected in sending ships to French waters to relase those vessels. The action involves questions of immense pecuniary importance to individuals, and is likely to succeed.

GOV. GEARY'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN—Before performing the customary and constitutional duty of transmitting to you information touching the affairs of the Commonwealth, and recommending such measures to your consideration as are deemed necessary and expedient, it affords me great gratification to tender to you my most cordial greetings on your assembling for the duties of Government, and to welcome you to the council chambers of the State.

Great general acknowledgments are due to the Beneficent Author of all good for the continued prosperity and well-being which everywhere prevails, for the abundance which has crowned the labors of the husbandman, for the general health with which we have been so signally favored, and for all the elements of comfort, peace, contentment and happiness within our borders.

Our country has just emerged from the trials and dangers of an energetic rebellion, and entered upon a period of important political struggles arising therefrom. Being convened as the representatives of a confiding constituency, grave duties and responsibilities devolve upon you in legislating upon the great and manifold interests committed to your charge as best to subserve the welfare of the people and advance the honor of the State. The fullest confidence is entertained that your deliberation will result beneficially and your public duties be faithfully discharged; and on my part, permit me to give you assurances of zealous co-operation in all your labors calculated to promote the general welfare.

One of the most important duties devolving upon the Legislature is the consideration of the public finances. Such action should be taken for the provision of funds to defray the current expenses of the Government, the preservation of the credit of the Commonwealth, and the equitable distribution of the public debt, as circumstances shall be found to require. Legislation to this end will claim the first attention of the Representatives of the people.

The report for State Treasurer shows

that the balance in the Treasury November 30, 1866, was.....$ 4,741,033 27
Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1867.....5,423,230 07
Loan for the redemption of the over-due bonds.....23,000,000 00
Unexpended funds in the Treasury, viz.:
Available.....41,032 00

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1867.....$30,205,295 34
Payments, viz:
Ordinary expenses during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1867.....$ 4,983,680 99
Less, redeemed.....20,915,528 83
Depreciated funds, unavailable.....41,032 00
21,541,593 88

Balance in Treasury, November 30, 1867.....4,661,836 46
Of which the Treasurer reports as applicable to the payment of over-due loans.....2,937,978 95
The sum of.....1,723,857 51

Balance.....1,723,857 51

Amount of the State debt on November 30, 1866.....$30,622,052 16
Funded debt, viz:
Sterling loan, bearing 5 per cent. 140 00
Act of consl. loans, 12,018,023 20
Relief notes, 5,907 00
.....$37,690,209 20
Unfunded debt, viz:
Relief notes in circulation.....$ 68,622 00
Interest certificates outstanding.....13,086 92
Int'st certificates unclaimed.....4,448 38
Domestic creditors' certificates.....44 07
114,204 37

Total outstanding.....37,704,409 77
From which deduct the amount in Treasury applicable to the payment of over due loans.....2,937,978 95
34,766,431 22
Amount redeemed during fiscal year ending November 30, 1867.....855,629 94
That the operations of the sinking fund may be clearly understood, the following explanation is quoted from the report of the Commissioners for the year ending November 30, 1867:
Balance in sinking fund, September 3, 1867.....$5,782,351 77
Receipts in fund for year ending September 3, 1867.....3,333,810 69
9,116,162 46
Disbursements:
Paid interest.....$5,573,333 50
Loan redeemed.....1,974,500 00
Premium paid.....75 00
Domestic creditors.....70 00
5,370,250 50
Balance in fund.....$3,736,912 41

By the sixth section of the act of May 16, 1861, a special tax of one-half mill on the dollar was especially set apart for the payment of the interest and redemption of the loan created by an act of May 15, 1861, entitled "An Act to create a loan and provide for arming the State."

The receipts from said tax and tax on corporations amount to.....$ 469,178 17
Interest paid in February and August, 1867.....156 24 00

Balance on hand.....319 240 17

Public debt, November 30, 1867.....$31,796,431 22
Assets in Treasury, viz:
Bonds of Pennsylvania Railroad Company.....$6,800,000 00
Bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company.....3,500,000 00
Bonds of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company.....1,400,000 00
Cash in Treasury.....1,723,857 91
13,123,857 91

Liabilities in excess of assets.....$24,644,573 31

The above assets will be available as follows:

By the act of May 16, 1861, when the Pennsylvania Railroad Company are to pay on the above bonds, $300,000 per annum, and the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company are to pay on the above bonds, $200,000 per annum, which, when paid, will leave a residue shall fall due, and one million annually thereafter, without interest, until the whole is paid, which will be in the year 1895.

By the act of March 7, 1861, the $3,500,000 of bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company are ordered to that company, upon the deposit of four millions of dollars of their bonds or dollar for dollar, for the payment of the original bonds, and a mortgage of four millions of dollars was also given by the company to secure the payment of the bonds, and to be paid in forty years from date of issue, and will mature A. D. 1907.

There is always a diversity in announcing the receipts into the State Treasury between the annual examination of the Governor and report of the Auditor General, arising from the difference in making up the figures for terminations on the first Monday in September, and the 30th day of November. To prevent complications of accounts and to avoid explanations, the receipts into the treasury for the fiscal year should be made the same as that of the Treasury.

The prompt payment with which citizens of Pennsylvania came forward last April and took the whole loan of $16,000,000 authorized by the act providing for suppressing of thirty-six millions, may be considered as the highest evidence of the unbounded financial history of the State, and indicate unbounded confidence in the good faith and honorable credit of the Commonwealth. Could the same be said of the finances is set forth with precision, in consequence of the public debt not being consolidated.

In addition to ratio, the balance in favor of the General Government for Pennsylvania's quota of the direct tax levied in the several States for war purposes, and donated from the United States Treasury in all to nearly two million of dollars, has been settled in full by the Auditor General of the State, and the expenses incurred by the State during the war.

In consequence of the lapse of time since the remaining claims were submitted, the want of sufficient vouchers and explanations, and the difficulty of identifying the parties, many of them, as well as whom they should be made, render their settlement difficult, and in many instances doubtful, the accomplishment of which will, however, be vigorously pursued, and the result be reported to you at the earliest practicable moment.

Passing from this general review of the finances of the state, I cannot permit some of the most prominent ideas connected with them to pass unnoticed, because they clearly indicate the path of duty in the direction of the future. The first, to which I would call proper to call your attention to the fact that during the whole of the civil war a very large sum of money

Weekly Commercial.

The Northern Pacific Railway.

While the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad Companies are pushing on their roads, both from the eastern and western points of departure, with amazing energy and success, the Northern Company has as yet done little more than enlighten the country on the comparative advantages of its route over any other. The reason is plain. The former has a large Government subsidy, a loan of United States credit, while the latter has only a simple land-grant. These results lie at all points nearly six hundred miles apart, and, for local trade, could never be rivals. If there be any jealousy between them, it is because the Northern road, on account of its shorter distances and easier grades, must eventually be the greatest highway of international commerce between Europe and Asia, and between Asia and our Atlantic seaboard. But we do not propose to discuss the relative prospects of the roads from any point of view. The vast importance of either to the solid and permanent growth of the Union, to its commercial prosperity and its defensive strength, is beyond any possible estimate. In the midst of the general satisfaction which hails the rapid construction of the one, we simply desire to call attention to the grand resources which the other is likely to command—to the stupendous empire in extent and in natural Wealth which it is destined to tap. Under the success of the latter enterprise, New York and New England have deep interests, worthy of their most practical consideration. The commercial supremacy of the City of New York can never, of course, be disturbed, but it may be enhanced; and it seems perfectly evident that, should the trade of Asia and the great Northwest be poured into the lakes which wash the northern boundary of the State, whatever is broken in bulk, or distributed to the Atlantic States, will be drawn off to the advantage of this metropolis.

The Company is authorized to build a road from the head of Lake Superior, on a line north of the forty-fifth degree of north latitude, to Puget's Sound, the owning of a branch down the Columbia Valley, to Portland, Oregon, from a point on the main line not more than 200 miles from the western terminus. This is not only the shortest route across continent, connecting lines of water communication, but its terminus are nearer, the one to Europe, and the other to Asia, than those of any other. Seattle, at the head of Puget's Sound, is one of the finest and safest harbors on the globe with a broad and deep channel to the ocean. Its distances to Amoor, Shanghai, Canton and Calcutta, Seattle has an average advantage of 260 miles. Besides, the prevailing winds of the Pacific compel all sailing vessels to enter the Straits of Fuca, and, from Victoria, Seattle has practically an advantage of 700 miles. Seattle is three hundred miles nearer to Chicago by the northern route than San Francisco by the Central, or, if the bonding system be, at the commencement of lake navigation, at the heads of Lake Michigan and Superior respectively, the difference is more than 700 miles in favor of the Northern route.

But is this route one of terms so much nearer to each other, and so much better situated with regard to the great commercial points of both hemispheres than those of any other, entirely practicable? No danger proposed the question in doubt, nor attempt to solve it upon imperfect data. United States surveyors, explorers, travelers, and scientific men, unite, so far as we are able to learn, in declaring it not only practicable, but comparatively easy and desirable. Leaving the shores of Lake Superior, it will pass for 1,010 miles, to the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, through a fertile and healthful country, every square mile of which will sustain a dense population, producing wheat, rye, corn, barley, potatoes, and grass, of a superior quality and in great abundance. From the mountains are crossed at an elevation 2,500 feet lower than the Central. Even on this mountainous section, there is much fine timber and excellent wheatlands, while the grades are not more difficult than some of those on the Baltimore and Ohio. Here the mountains are so low that the miners have actually conducted the waters of the Missouri across the divide in little ditches, through the Cascade Range, to the waters of the Sound, which it was feared might prove a serious obstacle. The recent accurate surveys have developed three passes, either of which is entirely feasible, and the summit of the middle or Snoqualmie Pass is but 2,000 feet above the sea. The snow on these uplands, unlike those on the same range a few hundred miles further south, are never more than two and a half feet deep. They do not fall until the cold sets in deep and light, presenting no difficulty to the snowplow. Grand lines of railroad are now in operation in various parts of the world where the snows are heavier and the cold far more severe than upon this. From a point on a line with Fort Laramie, to the Pacific, nature has provided the tepid winds of the ocean, and numbers less boiling springs, which make the atmosphere milder and warmer than in a score of ten degrees further south. This road passes through no vast sage plains or sandy deserts, but through a country everywhere propitious, everywhere inviting the industry of the producer, or the stock raiser, whose most ungenial portions sustain animals in winter upon grass alone. It is intersected by four great navigable rivers. It abounds in beautiful lakes and streams of pure water, teeming with fish and wild fowl. When we add to the landscape grandeur of these boundless and luxuriant plains, agreeably diversified with water, wood and hill, the prodigious supply of food for man and beast which is there promised to the settler, it would seem that in no land under the sun can the immigrant find a more charming home.

When this road strikes the Red River of the North in the neighborhood of Fort Abercrombie it will receive the trade of that stream, which flows North into Lake Winnipeg, a body of water as large as Lake Michigan. Into the same lake from the Saskatchewan, a magnificent stream which drains the British Territory from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Slave Lake, and giving, with the Red River and the lake itself, a continuous navigation of over two thousand miles in the heart of the British possessions. Again, when it reaches the great bend of the Missouri, about four hundred miles from the west end of Lake Superior, a thousand miles of that mighty stream to the mouth of the Yellow Stone, at Fort Benton to the point of crossing immediately becomes its tributary. In short, were we to state all or half the grand facts which favor the enterprise in hand, the reader would be apt to think that which is possible, and may be accomplished, would startle the imagination. Out of the territories of the United States it seeks to develop, eleven great States added to the Union, containing some of the richest mineral districts on the continent. Montana, Idaho and Dakota give as yet but a bare promise of the future. While politically the British possessions are the property of a foreign power, commercially they are ours, if we choose to make them so; and this fact is one of stupendous importance, whether we consider their extent, their natural capabilities, or the trade they are destined to command. From the British line to the sources of the Mackenzie, stretches a magnificent wheat country a thousand miles in breadth, much of it open prairie, and ready for the plow.

Lake Superior projects into the far Northwest several hundred miles further than any other navigable water, and at its head there will be nearly sixty miles of land to be passed, for ages gone by had enjoyed the commerce of the East before it. West and Northwest of it, the mighty area we have described, inexhaustible in its minerals and its agricultural resources, will pour its unimagined wealth of exchanges into and through it. With fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, as we find it on the Saskatchewan, what may not be predicted of the point which, by physical necessity, is to handle the products of a region so vast? Here will be the largest grain elevators ever seen, and that trade which has built so many flourishing cities will be multiplied a score of times by the nature has made a depot for the most extensive grain growing country on the globe. In the Bay of Superior, at the mouth of the St. Louis, we have the largest harbor on the Lakes, land locked and perfectly sheltered. It now admits lake boats of the heaviest tonnage, and to what extent it may be artificially improved we do not know; but an appropriation for this purpose was made by the last Congress. A city, on the point of land formed by the St. Louis and the Nemadji, has an elevation of thirty-four feet, and will possess nearly forty miles of water frontage, where vessels may discharge their freights on all the four sides of a square. The distance to St. Paul, the center of Northwestern railways, is only one hundred and thirty-five miles, while from Chicago it is over three hundred and fifty; and when you are at Chicago you are no nearer to Europe or the Atlantic ports than when at Superior. Various railroads are projected, or in course of construction, to connect the Upper Mississippi with the head of the lakes, and the work on the St. Paul end of the St. Paul and Superior road is rapidly progressing.

In view of the facts that we are an essentially pioneer people, that we plant and build wherever nature permits, and especially where she invites, and that we are annually reinforced by an increasing proportion of immigrants from the northern latitudes of Europe peculiarly fitted for the settlement of the Northwest, it is fair to presume that this generation will see completed what we have only faintly sketched—the commerce of Asia and Europe passing over a grand highway entirely devoid of activity, while the Atlantic and Pacific, Lake Superior and Puget's Sound, the head-waters of the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Columbia, with cities at either terminus, whose importance can only be measured by that of the trade they will control.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The Paterson, N. J., *Press* says that some of the more enterprising German citizens have recently set on foot an important scheme, which they anticipate will be attended with the most beneficial results. Their plan is to form an association of twenty or more families, with a capital of ten or fifteen thousand dollars, to buy land near Atchison, Kansas, and settle there. It will be a sort of co-operative, or mutual benefit association, each person to receive a portion of the benefits in proportion to his or her capital invested. Mechanics of every kind and farmers will be gladly received into the association and will be liberally dealt with. Thus far, about ten or twelve families have joined the society, and it is expected enough more will come in to enable them to start about February 1st.

A London correspondent says: An influential though a small body of the Roman Catholic laity in England are vexed with the authorities of Rome for forbidding Catholic students to resort to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. A collision is undoubtedly impending between the Catholics of the country and the liberal party in Oxford on the subject of philosophical teaching in the final school, and in this collision an educational principle is at stake.

The banking house of H. Markell & Co., of Dubuque, Iowa, closed its doors Tuesday morning, with liabilities announced to be $100,000. Their assets are estimated at from $80,000 to $15,000.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 8, 1868.

The following remarks on the business prospects of the country from the New York *Bulletin* embody many sensible thoughts that will be interesting to the readers of this column:

The new year opens with a more cheery feeling in business circles generally. For many months past we have been subject to a succession of severe spasms in financial and commercial affairs; each one of which it has been feared would bring about a general panic and the last one, especially, from its extreme severity, was expected to issue in a wide spread prostration of business. We have found, however, that these visitations come and go leaving as much less injured than we had anticipated; that in fact the spasms act as a sort of safety valve to the prevailing inflation, and avert an accumulation of explosive elements which would be much more injurious to the general welfare of the country than these occasional small panics. We are this learning to look at these periods of depression as much less threatening than we formerly supposed; and, after their occurrence, confidence, therefore, recovers with surprising rapidity. Three months ago with an extreme stringency in the money market, general timidity among buyers, credit everywhere checked, and important failures occurring on all hands, it would not have been deemed possible that we could now experience the comparative buoyancy and confidence which actually prevail.

The spring business is not anticipated with anything like a sanguine feeling; but the prevailing temper is on of moderate expectation which we think is justified by the situation of affairs. There is a moderation of the indisposition to operate at prevailing prices. During the past few weeks we have generally declined to a fair extent; and the fact that they have not fallen much more amid the extreme depression which has prevailed, is considered as meaning that we are not likely to make any sudden return to old fashioned values, but that the decline must be steady and continued over a considerable period. In a word, men of business seem disposed to understand the peculiarities of these exceptional times; and knowing better how to regulate their affairs to the situation, they are less liable to stand still from unnecessary timidity. This, undoubtedly, is one source of the present improved tone in the markets.

At the same time affairs are, in certain respects, in a conservative condition. Manufacturers are supplying the market most moderately and more intelligently than earlier than produced wild fluctuations in values by an over production, they are purchasing raw materials "from hand to mouth," and are endeavoring to offset general reductions by economies of their hands. This will very materially tend to relieve the business of the dangers arising from the instability of the markets. Again, we are beginning to witness a reaction from the excessive importations of the last two years; which will, at the same time give confidence to dealers in both foreign and domestic goods, and deliver us from the chronic apprehension of a deranging exportation of the precious metals. This result, from over-trading in foreign products is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. There is less reason for fearing commercial derangements arising from this source from Congress than there was two months ago. Congress will keep in check by its sense of responsibility to the people at the next election, and if it fails to improve the financial situation, it may perhaps be limited not to do much harm while it were.

—Gold has taken a decided jump upwards to-day. By some this advance is attributed to the apprehension that Congress will restrain the Secretary of the Treasury from any further contraction of the currency. It is even declared that the amount of currency withdrawn Congress will order reissued. This we hardly think probable. It is generally conceded that the payment of the thirty odd millions coming out of the Treasury in January has been over discounted, and that expectations of a further decline after the 1st proximo are likely to be disappointed, and the weakness of bonds abroad, and the continuance of foreign exchange at specie shipping rates tend to make the market firm.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, report the following quotations for governments, as received from Jay Cook & Co., their New York correspondents:—U. S. 6s, 1881, 108¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 108¾; do 1864, 106; do 1865, May and November, 106½; do 1865, January and July, 104¾; U. S. 10-40s, 102½; May 1868, Compounds, 117⅝; June 7-30s, 104⅜; July 7-30s, 104⅜; Gold, 136¾; 5-20s, 1867, 104⅝.

—Railway stocks are more buoyant, with higher prices ruling. The noon quotations today were as follows: Michigan Southern, 80¾; Cleveland and Pittsburgh, 89½; Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, 94½; Erie, 73¾; Chicago and Northwestern, 59.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 8, 1868.

BUSINESS—Trade was dull, and sales relates to transactions. We have few changes to note. Our rivers are in the navigable order. The receipts since our last were as follows: Flour, 604 bbls; apples, 228 bbls; corn, 1,600 sacks, wheat, 6 sacks; corn meal, 200 sacks; rye, 74 sacks; oats, 24 sacks. The above is rather a beggarly amount of receipts. In regard to prices we have few changes to notice.

BACON—Sales are so that some under our notice were as follows: S C hams 18¾@19c; sides, ribbed, 12½@13c.

DRIED BEEF—We note regular sales at 18½@19c.

LARD—In small kegs the market was firm with a good demand; sales at 12@13c.

LARD OIL—We have nothing new to note; sales of No. 1 at $1.10; common at 85c ₱ gallon.

ONIONS—Sales of 100 bushels at $3 ₱ bush.

CRANBERRIES—Sales of 10 bbls cultivated at $12 @13 ₱ bbl.

OATS—Sales of 500 bush car at $1.

WHEAT—Sales of 1,500 bush winter red on private terms.

CHEESE—Sales of 75 boxes Goshen at 18c; 40 do Factory at 17c ₱ lb.

BROOM CORN—Sales Scioto good No. 2 at $2 75 ₱ doz.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Sales 2 tons in bulk at $5 ₱ cwt.

HOPS—Sales Wisconsin at 50c; New York 50@60c.

OATS—Sales 700 bush at 65c.

RYE—The market was steady but not very active. Rates were nominal.

FLOUR—The market is excited owing to the advance in wheat and flour in the western markets. We note by private dispatches that No. 1 spring wheat is held firm at $2 08@2 10, and No. 1 spring wheat flour, $16@16 25 ₱ bbl. Our dealers here are not anxious to sell at present prices, although an advance of 50@60c has been established during the past two days. Below will be found brands and prices which are selling to-day:

T. C. Jenkins's prices, wholesale flour dealer, checked from, 27 Liberty street.

Dayton Snow Flake, white winter.....$12 50
Gold Medal.....11 50
Jenkins's Mills.....11 25
Regulator, Jenkins' Receiver.....11 75
Wheeling.....10 25
Minnesota.....10 75
Ohio Dominion.....11 00
Crescent.....10 50
Cascade.....10 50
Diamond.....10 25
Dayton.....10 25

Groceries.

The only thing new we have to note in groceries is the arrival of New Orleans sugar and molasses for various houses per steamer Messenger, and for these two articles our quotations are for single packages. In notes they can be bought lower. We quote as follows:

COFFEE—Old Government Java, in bags, 37c; in mats, 36c; Laguayra, 25@26c; Rio, choice 24c; prime, 23c; good, 22c; ordinary, 20@21c.

SUGAR—Porto Rico, 1859@12c; Cuba, 12@13c; Sugar House, 11½@12c; Granulated, 13¾c; Powdered, 14¾c; Crushed, 14¾c; A Coffee, 16¾c; B do, 16½c; extra C, 15c; C 15½; New Orleans 14@15c.

MOLASSES—Sales of 10 bbls Porto Rico, 79@ 80c; Cuba, 60@70c; Demerara, 80c.

SYRUP—Lovering's, $1 00; other choice brands, $1 00; fair to good, 90@95c.

TEAS—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90@$1 50; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1 25@2 00; Japan, 90c@$1 25; Oolong, 80c@$1 75.

RICE—Carolina, 9½@10½c; Rangoon, 9@10c.

VINEGAR—Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, from 25@30c.

FISH—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $21; No. 2 Shore, $15 No. 1 Bay do, $21; No. 2 Bay do, $15; No. 3 large do, $12 50@13 00; Lake Herring, $8 75; White Fish, $6 75. Codfish, 7½c ₱ lb.

SODA—English Bicarb 9c. American 8c.

SPICES—Pimento, 35c; Pepper, 38c; Cloves, 45c; Nutmegs, $1 60; Cassia, 80c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 10c; Babbitt's, 12c; Dunkley's, 11½c.

LYE—Concentrated Lye, $7 50.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 20c for full weight.

INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 50c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THIRD DAY MORNING, January 9, 1868.

BUSINESS—The market yesterday was dull. The sales made were on a small scale. The fact is, buyers don't appear to have much confidence in the present prices. The Liverpool circulars were as follows: Philadelphia prime light straw to white 22c; standard white 23c; crude 15½c. New York, prime light straw to white 23c; standard white 24c; crude 9c. Oil City—The market is devoid of activity, with regular sales at 22½@23 ₱ barrel. The sales made were as follows: For the first six months in 1868, for refined, Philadelphia delivery, 24½c; for the last six months, buyer's option, 26c, with an advance of $1 ₱ barrel in order to close the contracts.

GLASS MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1868.

We quote as follows, and in the uniform standard price throughout the United State, viz:

24 qualities.	1st quality.
6 by 8 to 8 by 10.....	$6 50
8 by 11 to 10 by 15.....	6 00
11 by 14 to 12 by 18.....	7 00
13 by 18 to 16 by 24.....	8 50
15 by 22 to 18 by 26.....	10 00
15 by 28 to 24 by 30.....	12 00
24 by 30 to 30 by 36.....	14 00
30 by 40 to 32 by 45.....	16 00

DOUBLE THICK CHARGED BY DOUBLE ABOVE RATES.

All fractions of inches will be counted as full inches, and all sizes not specified in the classification shall be charged according to bracket, indicated by greatest length or breadth.

The best city brands of window glass can be purchased at a discount of 25 to 45 per cent. off the above prices for cash, as to quantity wanted

CRACKER MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1868.

The following are the card prices:

Boston Crackers	11	Cream Crackers	20
Wine "	12	Graham Wafers	12
Soda "	10½	Milk Biscuit	12
Sugar "	10½	Ginger Snaps	17
Butter "	11	Pilot Bread	10@11
Water "	11	Cracker Meal	12
Butter "	12½	Almond Nut	30
Sugar "	12½	Fancy Crackers	20
Oyster "	12	Tea Cakes Assorted	18
Dyspepsia "	12		
Jumbles	20		

WRAPPING PAPER AND RAG MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1868.

There is a good demand for Wrapping. The Papers quotations are as follows:

Manilla.....	50c
Sod.....	7½
Rags in good demand at from 1½@6c, as to quality.	

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.—WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, FRIDAY, January 10, 1868.

Pig Iron and Blooms.

As anticipated in our last report, the market for crude irons continues dull. Many of the iron mills of the city having suspended operations for a time, the consumption of crude iron has fallen off greatly and the volume of sales is unusually light. Many of the foundries having either curtailed or entirely suspended operations for an indefinite time render foundry deliveries of raw irons especially small. Total sales 1,700 tons pig iron and 10 tons blooms.

We quote the following sales:

Bituminous Coal Smelted from Lake Superior Ore.

200 tons Open Grey Forge, deliverable at furnace.....$38 00—4 mos.
224 tons White and Mottled, low grade.....50 00—90 days
100 tons Gray mixture, with native ore. 90 00—4 mos.
100 tons.....private terms
20 tons No. 1 Foundry.....44 00—cash.
50 tons do do.....41 00—cash.

Anthracite.

76 tons Grey Antimacite Forge.....$39 00—7 mos.
45 do do do do.....39 00—6 mos.
50 do do Neutral.....Priv. terms.
29 do No. 2 Foundry.....45 00—cash.
20 do No. 1 Foundry.....47 00—4 mos.
100 do Mottled Forge.....35 75—6 mos.
20 do Grey do.....38 00—4 mos.
100 do Mottled do.....36 00—4 mos.
40 do do do.....37 00—4 mos.

Coke.

125 tons Allegheny Coke.....Priv. terms.
100 do Red Bank.....$38 00—6 mos.

Blooms.

10 tons Juniata.....$37 50—Cash.

Iron Bars and Nails.

During the past week the demand has been small and the trade flat, attributable in a great degree to the holidays. It is anticipated that during the next week there will be a fair trade doing. Prices remain unchanged. Nearly all the mills suspended on account of the holidays, will resume operation by Monday next.

Copper, Steel and Tin.

The market for these articles has not altered for the better during the week, no transactions of any account have occurred, and prices continue without any variation from those reported one week ago.

Hardware.

There is nothing of moment doing, and yet merchants have not on hand to make up in regard to dullness, as the business has been quite active as in any other branch of trade, and after having taken stock they find a fair balance in their favor, not actually very remunerative, but still profitable.

Dry Goods.

During the holidays our jobbers did not look for any amount of business, and as usual were taking stock and looking after accounts. We hear of no complaints in regard to the past trade, which, when summed up, shows favorable to balancing the accounts, with a fair margin to all our principal dealers. We report prices as follows:

PRINTS.			
Merrimack D.....	12½	Amoskeag.....	9@10
American.....	12½	Amoskeag.....	11c
Richmond.....	12½	Troy.....	11½
Cocheco.....	12½		
DELAINES.			
Hamilton.....	19	Pacific.....	18
SHIRTINGS.			
Another.....	14½	Penn.....	14½
Eagle.....	14½		

Miscellaneous.

There has been, on account of the opening of navigation, an active demand for ropes, oakum, etc. Prices are unchanged, and we have to report a fair stock of all descriptions on the market, offering at prices which should induce merchants to purchase here, where they can buy as cheaply as in the East, and save both time and freight. All kinds of leather move slowly, manufacturers buying nothing only what their immediate wants. Hides are 1 lower cents at last quotations. There is very little doing in lumber from yards, a usual at this season of the year. A few rafts from the upper waters of the Allegheny are arriving, but we have heard of no sales. Dealers are not disposed to purchase at this season of the year. During the holidays the boat has been kept busy with the usual flourry, foreign fruits, nuts, etc., not we have no change to note in prices. Altogether the market for trade continues inactive and prices unchanged.

Iron and Copper at New York.

Iron—The demand for English pig continues moderate, and we may quote No. 1 foundry Pictou or private terms: we quote Eglinton at $38 and Glengarnock at $38, ex ship, and about $1 more from yard; the latter for large lots; Scotch pig is nominal; there is no change in bar iron; the market is composed of these brands: American remains very steady at 9c for white sold on private terms, and 250 do No. 1, at Hoboken; 8¾@9c for common; Swedes dull and nominal; 12¼ do cast car wheels and 85 do mixed scrap, on terms not disclosed; Russian plate is very dull, and prices are nominally 22c; Sheet iron is very dull and prices are nominally 22@23c.

Copper—The price of new sheathing is sustained at 30c, and the demand has been fair; bolts are rather heavy, and prices are a little firmer; the transactions reported are 45,000 lbs Revere, 10,000 Phœnix Lake, chiefly the former, at 30¾@31c, and 25,000 for Baltimore, 20,000 for Philadelphia, 20,000 for Boston, 12,000 do cash or wheels and 85 do mixed scrap, on terms not disclosed; Russian plate is very dull, and prices are nominally 22c; Sheet iron is very dull and prices are nominally 22@23c.

Estimated stock of Ingot at this port January 1.

	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Lake Superior.	2,000,000	2,500,000	6,000,000	7,000,00
Baltimore.....	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	2,000,00
Chile.....	600,000	150,000	none.	none.

Shipping List.

IRON AND NAILS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, January 11, 1868.

The following are the card rates:

IRON.

Common Bar sizes.....	4 @ 4½
Horse Shoe.....	5½
Heavy Band Iron.....	6@6½
Hoop and Light Band.....	7
Round and Square.....	5½@6
Oval.....	5½@6
Half Oval and Half Round.....	5½@6
Boiler Iron.....	5
Tank Iron.....	5

All sheets over 24 in. wide, 3c ₱ lb extra.

Flat Rolls, punched and countersunk	4½@5
T, Rail, 12, 16, 20 and 25 lbs to the yard	4½@5
Spring Steel.....	6@11
Cast Screw Iron.....	5@6½

Sheet Iron, 18 to 17.....	6½
" 16 to 15.....	7
" 14 to 13.....	7½
" 12 to 11.....	8
" 10 to 27.....	10½

NAILS.	
10d to 60d Nails, Fencing.....	5½
8d and 9d Finish.....	6
6d and 7d.....	6½
4d and 5d.....	7
3d.....	8
2d.....	9
Clinch.....	6
Spikes.....	6

Finishing Nails—6d, 6c; 7d, 6½; 8d, 7c; 9d, 7½; 10d, 8c; 12d, 8½; 20d, 9c; 30d, 10c; 40d, 11c; 50d, 12c; 60d, 13c.

Clinch Nails—6d, 6c; 7d, 6½; 8d, 7c; 9d, 7½; 10d, 8c; 12d, 8½; 20d, 9c; 30d, 10c; 40d, 11c; 50d, 12c; 60d, 13c.

Barrel Nails—6 inch, $8 00; 1 inch, $7 25; 1¼ inch, $6 50; 1½ inch, $6 00.

Tobacco Nails—6d, $9 00; 8d, $7 75; 10d, $6 50.

The above are the card rates for iron and nails in small lots, but in large lots iron can be purchased at a discount of 5 per cent., and nails at 5 cents ₱ keg for 100 to 600, net cash; $5 25 for 50 to 81; viz at 25c ₱ keg less than the card rate, net cash.

STEEL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1868.

The following are the current prices:

Best quality refined tool steel.....	18c
Machinery.....	14c
Cast spring steel.....	14c
German spring steel.....	12c
Blister steel.....	11½@12c
Cast plow steel.....	10c
German plow steel.....	8c

HEAVY HARDWARE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1868.

The following are the card prices of Lewis, Oliver & Phillips, manufacturers:

Carriage Bolts.	$ 100.
⅝ inch to 7 in long by ¾ inch diameter..	$2 40 to 3 50
⅝ inch to 8 inch long by ¾ inch diameter..	2 40 to 3 50
⅝ inch to 9 inch long by ¾ in diameter..	2 25 to 3 20
½ inch to 12 inch long by ⅝ in diameter..	1 75 to 2 50
2 inch to 12 inch long by ⅝ in diameter..	2 20 to 3 25
3 inch to 12 inch long by ⅞ in diameter..	3 10 to 4 50
Tire Bolts.	$ 100.
⅝ in to 4 in long by 3-16 and ¼ in diam'r's	$2 40 to 3 50
⅝ in to 7 in long by ⅜ inch diameter..	2 50 to 3 50
⅝ in to 8 in long by ⅜ inch diameter..	3 20 to 4 00
⅝ in to 9 in long by ⅜ inch diameter..	3 75 to 4 50
⅝ in to ⅞ in long by ⅜ inch diameter..	4 50 to 5 00

Fifty per cent. discount on Carriage and Tire Bolts on orders of $1,000 or more.

Tuyere Iron, Duck nose, per doz.....	$8 00
Do Hammered.....	9 00
Do Harrington's patent,	46 00 to 10 00
Hot pressed nuts, square.....	5
Do do smaller and larger proportionate. The above subject to the usual discount.	
Large bolts, ⅞ in.....	6¼ to 10c
Bridge bolts.....	6¼ to 8c
Coal car bolts, usual list price with customary discounts.	
Machine bolts.....	25 per cent off list.
Plough bolts.....	25 per cent off list.
Coach and lag screws.....	35 per cent off list.
Screw and strap hinges.....	10 cents per pair.
Japanned screw hinges.....	10¢ cents per pair.
Harrow teeth.....	4½ cents each.

WROUGHT IRON WELDED TUBES.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, January 11, 1868.

The following is the card discounts:

Size.	Price.	Size.	Price, Gray.
Inside Diam.	Per ft.	Outside Diam.	Per ft.
⅛ inch gas pipe	7	¼ inch gas pipe	10
¼ do	7	⅜ do	11
⅜ do	10	½ do	14
½ do	12	¾ do	20
¾ do	17	1 do	27
1 do	23	1¼ do	34
1¼ do	30	1½ do	40
1½ do	36	1¾ do	47
2 do	48	2¼ do	60
2½ do	60	2¾ do	1 20
3 do	90	3½ do	1 60
4 do	1 60	4½ do	2 00
5 do	2 40	5½ do	2 80
6 do	3 40	6½ do	4 00
7 do	4 80	7½ do	6 00
8 do	7 50	8½ do	9 00
9 do	10 00	9½ do	12 00
10 do	12 00	10½ do	15 00

All descriptions of Iron Pipe and Tubes, Gas Fitters' Brass Work, Engine Trimmings, Pipe Tools, Stocks and Dies, Pipe Cutters, Vises, Pipe Wrenches, Steam Gauges, Oil Well Supplies, Packing, Rubber Hose, Lead Pipe, Sheet Lead, Block Tin, Solder, Rubber Goods, Babbitt Metal, Bell Metal, Spelter, Antimony, Zinc, Iron Wire, Steel Wire, Wire Rope, Wire Cloth, Wire Work, Coal Screens, Fire Brick, Fire Clay, Cement, Plaster, Hair, Calcined Plaster, Borax, Sal Ammoniac, Glue, Emery, Emery Cloth, Emery Wheels, Files, Rasps, Belting, Babbitt Metal, Solder, Bar Tin, Pig Tin, Ingot Copper, Sheet Copper, Bolt Copper, Spelter, Sheet Zinc, Sheet Iron, Sheet Steel, Cast Steel, Shear Steel, Spring Steel, Tire Steel, Machinery Steel, Blister Steel, Anvils, Vises, Hammers, Sledges, Picks, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Hoes, Rakes, Scythes, Grass Blades, Axes, Hatchets, Adzes, Mattocks, Bird Cages, Wire Mattresses, Sad Irons, Trivets, Skates, Table Cutlery, Pocket Cutlery, Butchers' Knives and Steels, Shears, Scissors, Razors, Razor Strops, Horse Brushes, Shoe Brushes, Hair Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Clothes Brushes, Whisks, Brooms, Mops, Mop Sticks, Wash Boards, Clothes Pins, Clothes Wringers, Tubs, Pails, Churns, Carpet Sweepers, Coffee Mills, Lamps, Lamp Wicks, Lamp Chimneys, Lamp Burners, Candlesticks, Candle Moulds, Candle Wicks, Tinners' Rivets, Tinners' Snips, Tinners' Soldering Coppers, Tinners' Furnaces, Tinners' Stakes, Tinners' Hammers, Tinners' Punches, Tinners' Shears, Tinners' Trimmers, Tinners' Mallets, Tinners' Anvils, Tinners' Vises, Tinners' Rules, Tinners' Dividers, Tinners' Compasses, Tinners' Scribers, Tinners' Squares, Tinners' Bevels, Tinners' Gauges, Tinners' Hatchets, Tinners' Braces, Tinners' Bits, Tinners' Countersinks, Tinners' Reamers, Tinners' Taps, Tinners' Screw Plates, Tinners' Stocks and Dies, Tinners' Pipe Cutters, Tinners' Tube Cutters, Tinners' Soldering Irons, Tinners' Blow Pipes, Tinners' Soldering Furnaces, Tinners' Soldering Tables, Tinners' Soldering Stands, Tinners' Soldering Ladles, Tinners' Soldering Pots, Tinners' Soldering Kettles, Tinners' Soldering Boilers, Tinners' Soldering Tubs, Tinners' Soldering Pails, Tinners' Soldering Cups, Tinners' Soldering Spoons, Tinners' Soldering Dippers, Tinners' Soldering Strainers, Tinners' Soldering Funnels, Tinners' Soldering Measures, Tinners' Soldering Gauges, Tinners' Soldering Hatchets, Tinners' Soldering Braces, Tinners' Soldering Bits, Tinners' Soldering Countersinks, Tinners' Soldering Reamers, Tinners' Soldering Taps, Tinners' Soldering Screw Plates, Tinners' Soldering Stocks and Dies, Tinners' Soldering Pipe Cutters, Tinners' Soldering Tube Cutters, Tinners' Soldering Irons, Tinners' Soldering

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1868.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy grants to the getter-up of the club.

NOW AND THEN.

We have already more than once referred to Mr. PARTON's paper on Pittsburgh, and we refer to it again mainly for the purpose of suggesting a parallel, or pointing a contrast. Before touching our main subject, however, we may express our regret that, since Mr. PARTON thought Pittsburgh worth coming to see and describe, he did not see more, and that his description, lively as it is, does such poor justice to the interest and magnitude of this grand seat of industry and the practical arts. Then again we may congratulate our readers on Mr. PARTON's visit and its result. To see ourselves as others see us, is a valuable attainment; and while it is quite true that Mr. PARTON did not see, at least has not noticed, many matters obvious to our view and important in our thoughts, he has selected for remark, and made interesting by his treatment, one or two subjects, perhaps, not generally appreciated among us—at least in their picturesque aspects, and which will remain unappreciated no longer. We are told that after the publication of Mr. JEFFERSON's "Notes," people who lived in the neighborhood of the now famous gap—where the Shenandoah passes through the Blue Ridge—were much puzzled by the inquiries, and still more by the admiration of visitors who came to see the place in consequence of the description in that book. They had lived there all their lives, and had never suspected that their vicinage contained anything remarkable. We may easily believe that the eye for the strange, if not for the sublime, possessed by some of them, was gradually and advantageously opened. And so we may trust that a few among us may have their curiosity and interest in some of our local peculiarities kindled or stimulated by the vivid portrayal of the last *Atlantic Monthly*. But to our parallel or contrast.

At a very early period of its history, Pittsburgh was visited by a gentleman very inferior to Mr. PARTON in power of picturesque writing, but quite equal to him in curiosity and in the preliminary attainments necessary to see and understand the natural and artificial phenomena of the place. This gentleman was JOHN DAVID SCHOEPF. He was a subject of the High-Princely House of Brandenburg, "Military-Surgeon, Landphysikus, and a member of the Society of Nature-investigating Friends at Berlin." He was a zoologist, a botanist and a geologist according to the standard of his age. He was attached as a surgeon to the Brunswick troops sent to this country during the Revolutionary War, and from June, 1777, until July, 1783, he lived in this country—stationed sometime in Rhode Island, then in New York, and for a while in Philadelphia. At the close of the war, by permission of his prince and to gratify his own curiosity, he made a tour through the Middle and Southern States—visiting East Florida and the Bahama Islands. He kept a journal and made extensive collections in natural history, and on his return home he published his travels in two volumes. The book was printed at Erlangen in 1788, and a copy of it is now before us. Many portions of his work are exceedingly interesting—and perhaps to us in this region there is nothing much more interesting suggested by the book than the fact that such a man could find little of much value or significance to report about Pittsburgh. His zoological, botanical and geological statements are quite superseded by later explorations. His remarks on the local advantages of the place, on the different lines suitable for roads, and on routes that might be made available for transportation—from which he infers that Pittsburgh is destined to be a great emporium, or mart of traffic—are all the remarks of a man of sense and knowledge, and have all been verified by time. But the contrast between Rome and Mantua, that filled VIRGIL's shepherd with amazement, was a trifle compared with the contrast between the Pittsburgh of Mr. PARTON and the Pittsburgh of Dr. SCHOEPF. The acorn and the oak, the grub and the butterfly, the egg and the ostrich, are a few of the opposites suggested by the retrospect. However commonplace the statements of this book may appear to us, they afford genuine glimpses into the old time, and may possess a certain interest for some readers. They may, too, hint an antithesis before unsuspected, not merely between the Pittsburgh of to-day and an insignificant village, but between a great city roaring with machinery and sombre with the smoke of many forges and a very village of Lubberland or Drowsyhead. We propose, therefore, to translate a few sentences and to report the substance of a few others from Dr. S's. book, from which the reader will gather an impression of what Pittsburgh was at the time of his visit.

Dr. SCHOEPF arrived here some time in September, 1782. He found many houses at Turtle Creek. From there, ascending a steep hill, he traveled for seven miles through mere forest, when for three miles more he found the country somewhat inhabited. Crossing several brooks, known as the six mile, four mile and two mile brooks, respectively, so called from their distance from Fort Pitt, he greatly enjoyed the last two miles. The clear sky, the open and attractive landscape, the beautiful river in full view, the sense of escape from the gloomy forests through which he had driven for many days, all these circumstances contributed to his pleasure. Arrived in Pittsburgh, he was directed to the best inn or guesthouse, which he describes as a small wooden building or hut on the Monongahela. The outside was very unpromising, but the sight of a number of well dressed gentlemen and well got up ladies kept him from fright or despair. He and his companion, he tells us, were not the chief objects of curiosity to the denizens, but their vehicle, a *"karriol,"* in which they had made their whole journey from the East, a feat of traveling hitherto held to be impracticable. Pittsburgh contains, he tells us, about sixty houses and huts occupied by somewhat more than one hundred families; for, he adds, by the outbreak of the last war the increase of the place, at first rapid, had been arrested. "The first stone house was built this summer; soon, however, many good buildings must be seen, as the place enjoys a well grounded hope of becoming in time great and distinguished. At present there are houses neither for the public worship of God nor for the administration of justice. A German preacher, however, resides here who serves all of the same faith, and once or twice a year a judge comes to see to the right." The inhabitants he represents as poor, and "also as exceedingly inactive and indolent, (*ausserst unthatig und trage;*) so much so indeed that they are dissatisfied when one gives them an opportunity of laboring and earning money—*for which, however, they have a voracious hunger.* This was the unanimous complaint; and we also experienced that every insignificant trifle made here was much dearer than even in Philadelphia—that the people do not seek to become rich through industry and moderate prices, but by extracting at once as much as possible from strangers and travelers. As they fear and eschew labor, they make those pay dearly for it who interrupt their comfortable idleness. Their means of subsistence formerly were confined to agriculture and traffic in skins and furs. At present, however, since very considerable settlements have been formed farther down the Ohio, which are increased by daily accessions of new inhabitants, the people of Pittsburgh derive great advantages from the trade and transit of these on their way to those settlements." Dr. S. says the voyage is sometimes made in fourteen days from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. The first French Fort, a mere stockade, situated in the angle of the two rivers, has perished long ago. He remarks, "Under the English Government a larger work of five bastions, with stone lined walls and a ditch, was begun, but was not completed when the last British garrison left it in 1774. The Americans, to whom this fort was of good service during the late war, have laid out no money upon it, but on account of the Indians have ever kept in it a sufficient garrison, which is even now, (1783) on the point of withdrawing. The garrison maintained here have furnished some subsistence to the village, and have made it lively. For here, during the war, (the Revolution war), at the distance of 400 miles westward from the ocean, they had balls, plays, concerts and comic exhibitions. The departure of so many fine gentlemen (*schoener Herren*), and the cessation of so many enjoyments, cannot therefore be anticipated by the Pittsburgh ladies with other than grieved hearts." But we must lay aside our book for the present. Cities have often been compared to men with their youth, maturity and old age. The idle boy after being the plague of his parents and teachers, often becomes the man of staid habits and substantial virtues. He sows his wild oats and reforms. In olden times an asylum of robbers became the mother of laws and the framer of jurisprudence for all the nations and ages of the west. And the Pittsburgh of 1783 has become the Pittsburgh of 1868.

THE CENTRAL FLOWERY LAND.

The announcement of the appointment of the United States Minister, Mr BURLINGAME, to represent China in an embassy to the Treaty Powers, is one of those startling statements, which, when made with telegraphic brevity, it is difficult fully to comprehend. That the selection was approved by the several foreign ministers residient near Pekin, must be regarded as a circumstance flattering to Mr. BURLINGAME, and to the nation he represents. Most surprising and significant, however, is the fact that China—the land of "use and wont"—the self-contained and self-conceited contemner of "pale devils" and "outside barbarians" should at length have commissioned an "outside barbarian" and a "pale devil" to represent her interests and speak in her name. With our present knowledge of the matter it would be quite indiscreet to say much about it in the way of explanation, or even conjecture. But we may remark that the statesmen of the Celestial Empire are neither ignorant nor ill informed in regard to the nations of the West and their politics. Chinese contempt for Europe and America has not been blind, unreasoning scorn, but disparagement founded upon knowledge and comparison. Arts and inventions which we plume ourselves upon they believe to have been known and applied in a regular and systematic manner by their ancestors while our fathers were naked denizens of the forests. Nor when brought into actual contact with the *illiterate* people of the West have they been able to see much to command homage or even to inspire respect.

For many years Catholic missionaries—some of them familiar with all the science of their time—not only lived among them, but held positions of dignity coveted by the highest mandarins. The knowledge of Europe then communicated is still preserved in their encyclopedias and other books. Then came the entire exclusion of foreigners from the country; but even during the period of isolation there is reason to believe that they did not neglect to observe and learn a good deal about the proceedings of the outside Barbarians. Mr. WYNWOOD COOKE, the *Times* correspondent in China a few years ago, and who made the voyage from Canton to Calcutta in the same ship with Commissioner YEH, found that great functionary, though uncommunicative, familiar with the utterances of Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Lord PALMERSTON in the House of Commons for years. And this YEH had been looked upon by Englishmen as the *ne plus ultra* and finished type of Chinese ignorance and exclusiveness.

As an illustration of the sort of character Chinese institutions have been able to produce, and of what some Chinamen have been able and willing to do for knowledge, we may briefly state a single fact. In the seventh century of our era a Chinese Buddhist—HIOUEN-TSANG—when very young, filled with a longing to see the land which had given birth to the founder of his faith, and to drink at the fountains of spiritual knowledge, set out as a pilgrim for the valley of the Ganges. He wandered across China and Thibet, entered Hindostan by one of the northern passes through the Himmalayas, and finally reached Magadha in the valley of the Lower Ganges, where GOTOMA or SAKYA-MUNI received the breath of life, and where by meditation he became *Adi-Buddha* or supreme intelligence. There our Chinese pilgrim spent several years in a Buddhist monastery, learning Sanscrit and copying the books containing tour around and through India, carefully the oracles of his religion. He then made a observing and recording his observations and remarks in his journal, and at length returned to his home near Pekin, in the Central Flowery Land, carrying with him many manuscripts relating to his faith and its history. These he then translated into his own vernacular. He also wrote out and published a copious narrative of his travels. This book, some years ago, was rendered into French by M. STANISLAS JULIEN, the great Sanscrit scholar, and also Sinologist, of Paris. It contains a most full and interesting account of the people, manners, customs, etc., of the Hindoos as they were seen by the pilgrim. In this Chinaman of the seventh century are manifest the very spirit and energy which have given glory, and perhaps immortality or fame to some of the best known names of the nineteenth century. But let us return to our mutton.

We suppose that the diplomatic appointment to which we referred in the beginning, must be taken as evidence that the Chinese rulers—perhaps through a partial change of view—perhaps simply hard pressed by the rebels, really intend some concession to the Treaty Powers, greater and more important than any they have ever made. Possibly they hope for help to suppress the chronic rebellion which is troubling them, and Mr. BURLINGAME, in lively recollection of things at home, may have intimated something in favor of giving them aid for that purpose. A very difficult question would then have to be decided.

PROBLEMS.

Every year and almost every month the investigations of scientific men bring to light facts which are very strange and difficult to classify. And yet any one in search of the curious and incomprehensible, could hardly select a field more likely to yield satisfactory, or unsatisfactory results, than our own human nature. If, as the proverb says, "the proper study of mankind is man," then one can hardly, in the pursuit of knowledge, be better employed than in noting such phenomena as occur in this department, and in trying to resolve them into their causes or antecedents. What is called Fenianism, is in itself a quite intelligible fact. Ireland, for which we all in this country have good wishes, even when we have no admiration, has for ages been trampled upon and misgoverned by the English, much aided and encouraged by the Irish. Repeated revolts and attempts at revolt have been put down with the strong hand of the English, aided by the cunning and *the information* of the Irish. Repeal was vehemently and persistently agitated, in the hope of redressing some of the grievances brought upon Ireland by English gold and Irish love of it; but Repeal agitation proved a failure, and the people of Ireland did not find their condition much, if at all, improved by it. And now Fenianism, as we understand it, is an organization formed for the purpose of establishing Irish independence, and its preliminary operation must be to force England to let go her hold upon the island. To make war upon England from this country as the basis of operations; to organize the Irish Republic on United States soil, to issue pronunciamentos and manifestos from New York or Pittsburgh against Great Britain, with whom we are at peace, may seem very eccentric proceedings, but men and especially Irishmen, are sometimes eccentric, a sort of "chartered libertines" in conduct as in language, and we must not judge them severely, or hold them rigorously amenable to the musty principles by which less mercurial beings are commonly restrained. To fulfil our treaty obligations, prevent the violation of peace, and so prevent the departure from our territory into a neighbor's territory of bands of armed men, likely to be restrained neither by discipline nor disposition, from committing disorders not recognized as right by the code of war—may have cost us a million or so of dollars. But we are rich, and ought not to think hardly of patriotic men, who desire to show their love for what was once their country—which we also love—and their hatred for a country which we also have some reason to hate. Thus far we feel pretty sure of a degree of unanimity in our judgments of the Brotherhood's proceedings. Some may think that the steps just mentioned had better not have been taken, but none can fail to say, "Be gentle with the enthusiastic men. Do not think or speak harshly of them. Their enthusiasm is a lovely trait; it is the same spirit which, in another direction has produced masterpieces in literature and undying achievements in war."

But in the progress of time the proceedings of this Association have become such as to start a question or two in casuistry. We shall try to avoid the use of offensive language in stating them. Let us put the case hypothetically after the manner of the same Association—animated by patriotism—shorten the existence of human beings who have neither done nor purposed to do them harm; suppose the doers of this objectionable thing are tried, found guilty, and confined in prison; suppose that the allies of these unfortunate patriots, knowing that a "barrel of gunpowder will make a breach in a strong wall if exploded close to it," thus place a barrel of gunhowder with the intention of exploding it. Then suppose them to know that the houses and cottages close packed around the place are filled with innocent women and children who will be blown to fragments by the explosion. Not only this; suppose these enthusiastically patriotic men in plain work men's clothes take advantage of the sympathy felt for their class to get into the private rooms and garrets of the neighboring houses for the purpose of more effectually making their little arrangements. Of course there was full belief in the minds of these poor people that no harm was intended. In view of these hypotheses—which happen also to be facts—many questions arise; but we have space to put only these: First—Did not these patriotic men go a little too far? Second—Ought we to recognize the cause *in as far as it was represented by those men* as entitled to either sympathy or respect? When among the emergencies of life a question like this arises, one cannot but regret the delay of the science of casuistry,—of which the Irish, then called *Scoti*, were once such brilliant masters—that noble science which could "divide a hair twixt south and southwest side," and so enable the man of scrupulous conscience to act as well as think in a firm unfaltering manner. The third question suggested is less practical, and therefore less important, but still worthy of consideration. It is this: Are such acts as the one above described at all allied in nature with, or in any manner indicative of the same traits of character as the shooting of landlords, tax-gatherers, and other objectionable parties, from behind hedges?

IMPORTANT RAILROAD REFORM.

The most important of the numerous reforms announced by Commodore VANDERBILT's management of the New York Central Railroad, is the abandonment of all discriminations against the local traffic, and the establishment of a *pro rata* scale of charges for all passengers and freight carried over that road. Now we inquire, in all seriousness, if the New York Central charges an absolute *pro rata* for the distance carried, why cannot our Pennsylvania Railroads also follow this example? We are informed that every Railroad manager examined by the Senate Committee during the last summer, declared under oath against this uniform *pro rata* scale of freight. And yet before we have this testimony printed, the New York Central has announced its adoption, and the statement is made that all the fast freight lines, by agreement among themselves, have always divided their freight charges on this basis.

Suppose that in 1846, when the bill to charter the Pennsylvania Railroad was pending in the Legislature, some bold advocate of that road had proposed to authorize the Company to charge on Pennsylvania freight double the rates charged upon freights shipped through this State by non-residents. How many votes could such a proposition have received in that Legislature? Not, one. And yet that road and all the trunk lines have been almost daily, ever since, acting on this very principle. We do not allege that heretofore the Pennsylvania Railroad has been acting any worse in this respect than her rivals in business. But now her most powerful competitor having boldly set an example, we hope to chronicle that she has been the first to follow. If she does, her weaker competitors will be forced to adopt the same policy, and then we will have the spectacle of a very important reform adopted by the voluntary action of the rival trunk lines.

We kindly suggest that the Pennsylvania Railroad shall take the lead and challenge the New York Central to one other still more important reform. We mean that both these monster corporations shall, in future, confine themselves to running their Roads, and cease to run the Legislatures assembled at Harrisburg and Albany. We have no doubt that these two corporations have for some years past expended on the legislative trains more money than they would lose by adopting this *pro rata* system in favor of the home trade. It has been proved before the Committee on Canals and Railroads in the New York Constitutional Convention, that over $100,000 annually has been expended by the Central Railroad in manipulating the Legislature of that State. We never have had any authenticated statement showing how much the legislative train at Harrisburg, of which a certain JAMES FULLER is said to be the conductor, SAMUEL MOON, A. R. SCHOFIELD, *et id omne, &c.*, are the reputed engineers, brakemen, car greasers, &c., have cost our monopoly. We can, however, assure the managers of that road that if this legislative train is taken off entirely, and the saving thus effected is applied to giving the dwellers along the line of that road an honest *pro rata* freight and passenger toll, that they will do more to render themselves immortal in history and benefit their stockholders than ever has been done in the past. We especially appeal to JOHN EDGAR THOMSON, who, according to report, is contemplating withdrawing from the Presidency, not to do so until these two reforms are accomplished facts. He has the power to do it if he has only the nerve to make the attempt. Let him not be outdone by Commodore VANDERBILT as a reformer, but let him show that he can make himself the NAPOLEON of railroad managers. If he will only see to the adoption of these two reforms in the management of his great trunk line, then the grateful thanks of the people of Pennsylvania will follow him in his retirement.

THE FREE RAILROAD QUESTION IN THE SENATE.

We have no disposition to embarrass Senator GRAHAM, as presiding officer of the Senate—to which position he will doubtless be chosen. Nor do we see how, by insisting that Senator LANDON, an anti Free Railroad man, should not be made Chairman of the Railroad Committee, we could embarrass him. It seems to us that the action of the Republican party in Pennsylvania has completely relieved him from embarrassment in this matter. Its action has made his course clear and easy. Not only is he himself a Free Railroad man, but he is under the highest instructions in regard to it. Senator LANDON is not a Free Railroad man; his action last winter was in steady and effective hostility to the Free Railroad Bill. It was his course and the consequences of it, more than any other reason, that led the last Republican State Convention to adopt the resolution committing the party to an effective Free Railroad Law. Under this state of the case, to appoint Mr. LANDON to the place on the committee he occupied last winter, where he could embarrass if not again defeat the Free Law, would be in spirit in direct violation of the pledge of the Republican Convention, and what no one but an enemy to the Free Law would wish or expect Senator GRAHAM to do.

After so many and unmistakable expressions of popular sentiment, it seems to us that there is but just one course for Senator GRAHAM to pursue—at any rate, there is one course which he cannot pursue: he cannot, and be faithful to his personal position and professions, and those of his party and the public welfare, place at the head of the Senate Railroad Committee a Senator who is not a recognized friend and advocate of a genuine and effective Free Railroad Law. No one will pretend that Senator LANDON is such a man.

THE KING OF JERUSALEM AGAIN.

Some months ago we published a translation from a German Magazine of a sketch of the life and adventures of Count LEON, who called himself King of Jerusalem. That translation, as we know, was read by many with much satisfaction. In the last number received of the *Gartenlaube*, the Leipzig Magazine from which that narrative was taken, we find the following item, which may also interest some of our readers:

"The King of Jerusalem, that Bernhard Muller of Aschaffenburg, afterwards called Proll, whose life we sketched in our 21 and 22 numbers, was not drowned in the Missouri, as we then stated agreeably to a report, but he died a natural death. A German, Mr. J. G. Backofen, of Pittsburgh, who there knew Proll and his companions personally, sends us the following communication in regard to the later fortunes and end of those strange saints:

"In September, 1853, Proll, with his wife and child, a very beautiful boy of seven years, together with his still remaining adherents, among them Dr. Goetzgen, embarked on a keel-boat from Philipsburg to go down the Ohio and the Mississippi into the Red River. Philipsburg was his residence, whither he removed after he had accomplished the purpose of gold-making, with the seceders from Kapp's society. The great excitement in the company reached the town of Natchitoches, in the state of Louisiana, in November; from which place they wanted to go further down the river to an established German settlement. Some miles below the latter place the keel-boat struck the trunk of a tree concealed in the stream, and sank with the provisions and household stuff of the colonists. Fortunately the emigrants had gone ashore to drag the keel-boat over the rapids. Deprived of everything, some Germans living in the neighborhood took in Proll and his companions, and gave them the means of living and of getting on to their place of destination, where they settled down and by industrious economy soon became quite comfortable. Proll died in the Red River Colony in the year 1861. Goetzgen died a few years after. The wife of the former was murdered in 1861 on his return from New Orleans, whither he had taken to market the cotton raised in the colony. Kahl died in Bordeaux as American Consul. Zikesch, Hausse, Neitzsch, etc., also died. Mayer, who founded the Aschaffenburg religious society are still living on the Red River."

Whether this PROLL, *sol disant* King of Jerusalem, was a self-conscious impostor, or merely one of the great multitude of the self-deceived, is a question which cannot now be resolved. Perhaps the most satisfactory view is, that he began as a deceiver of others and ended by deceiving himself; a metamorphosis in the development of religious charlatans and conjurors almost as uniform and accordant with natural law as the transformation of the pollíwig into the frog. There seemed to be a certain poetical justice in the fact, long believed, that he who had *taken in* so many others should at last have been taken in himself—by the Missouri. This, however, was rather poetical than actual or providential justice, which was better exemplified in his long life and comfortable death. As the Greek poet said—

"He dies carliest whom the gods love best."

A BOUNDEN DUTY.

Alluding to the meeting of the Legislature of this State, the Philadelphia *Press* says:

"The demand of the people just now is for economy in the administration of public affairs and systematic retrenchment. Riot must be abandoned and dividends drawn from some other business than legislation."

With the popular branch composed largely of new members, and the other having a considerable infusion fresh from the people, we entertain the hope that "dividends" will be "drawn from other business than legislation." With a working majority in both houses, the Republicans will be held rigidly responsible for errors and failures.

First in importance is the Free Railroad Law. A decided majority in both branches know as well as they know anything in the world, that their constituents expect and demand that they proceed promptly to enact a comprehensive genuine Free Railroad Law. And yet it is perfectly well known that the Monopoly managers expect by expert manipulation to defeat the popular expectation and demand, and foist upon the State a Law so loaded down with all sorts of impracticable features that it will be practically worthless. They count on finding several JUDASES who will betray the people, under the guise of supporting a law which will be found to be bogus. This bogus dodge is to be played from the outset. But if there is a member of either House who supposes he will be able to keep his head above water a single hour after he lends himself to this game of fraud and treachery, fatally deludes himself. The name of every traitor will be posted from one end of the State to the other, and universal scorn visited upon him wherever he goes. A Free Railroad Bill should be early prepared, and after having been made as perfect as possible, should be made the leading Republican measure of the session, for which every Republican member should be bound by caucus to vote. The last Republican State Convention unanimously pronounced for such a measure; the Republican party in Pennsylvania in every way imaginable stands pledged to it; and it would be a piece of monstrous unfaithfulness should the Republicans in the Legislature omit or refuse to redeem the pledge. From this duty there is no escape, and it would be treacherous to think of it.

ENLIGHTENMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand has resolved to found a university. Meetings have been held in Dunedin, the capital, and the legislature has been petitioned on the subject. In the meanwhile, as a temporary expedient, scholarships are to be founded, which will be open to all young men resident within the colony, and obtained by public competition to enable the successful candidates to complete their education at one of the universities of the United Kingdom, or at any university of established reputation, the selection to be made by the parents or guardians of the scholars.

Perhaps our New Zealand neighbors took the hint in relation to scholarships from Pittsburgh. We have heard something of the same kind talked of with reference to our own University. How many such endowments is she, or rather the public, enjoying from the purpose of putting indigent young men on the course of intellectual development? It has sometimes happened, we know, that genius worth a million in hard cash has been allied to poverty. Of course such contingencies are provided for in Pittsburgh.

We are assured that the present Directors of the New York Central Railroad believe that railroads "are built for the benefit of the country through which they run, and that their true prosperity is to be found in the development of their local business;" and, it is added, that "the energies of the Directors will be devoted to the legitimate business of increasing the traffic along the line, and enhancing the value of the great property they have in charge."

What but this, we ask, should the managers of a great road do? But how seldom is this their policy! The "business of increasing the traffic" and "enhancing the value of the property in charge" is spoken of as a new policy in the management of the New York Central, and quite the reverse of what has heretofore prevailed, which must have been a bad enough policy, both for the public and the Road. The new policy will at once convert the spirit of hostility which has for years existed and been growing along the line of the New York Central into friendship and co-operation. No doubt the stockholders as well as the public, will early realize the tangible benefits from the change. We have great hopes that the example of the New York Central will be followed by other great roads. It it is not, we confidently expect to see the example of the stockholders in that company in coming forward in a controlling majority and sweeping from office the old management followed by the stockholders in other great companies whose dividends are not at all commensurate to the business done, for the reason the cream of it is absorbed by favored parties. How many private fortunes rightfully belong to patiently waiting stockholders, who are continually assured that there a good time coming, will never be told—and that sort of thing will never cease till, as in the case of the New York Central, the stockholders resolutely determine to have a direction in their interest.

In all the Congressional debates on this subject the leading advocates of the Radical policy based their support of it on the ground that in order to keep the Government in the hands of Union men it was an utterly necessary to admit the negro to vote, and to exclude as many of the whites as possible. This was the grand argument used in favor of universal negro suffrage, and in support of what is known as the Shellabarger disfranchising amendment to the Reconstruction bill.

So says the New York *Times*; and we accept as to the exclusion of the whites, we believe it but tells the truth, though in a way the most offensive possible. After the war, and when a civil policy for the South came to be considered, it was found that the issue remained substantially the same, the object of the rebels being to accomplish through the ballot box what they failed to accomplish by armies. The struggle thus transferred, the assistance of the negro became far more essential than it had been in the field,—in fact the civil victory depended on him, and every reason which had operated in favor of giving him the musket was ten-fold stronger in support of the proposition to give him the ballot. Our victory in the field without him was possible and even probable, but at the ballot box without him defeat was certain; and the consequences of victory or defeat would relate not to the South solely but to the whole country. Under such circumstances there was no room for a doubt or time for debate or hesitation; and the strong reasons for originally adopting the policy are as strong now for continuing it—at least until the original danger shall have ceased. The question of the right of suffrage—of equal or universal suffrage—as the terms are generally used, was scarcely considered. It was a question of defense and self preservation, and the instruments to be used in deciding it were chosen almost solely with reference to the present danger, and with little reference to any abstract rights and principles, or with a permanent line of policy in view. Under like circumstances there is not a loyal State which would not seize upon negro suffrage; and we scarcely question that when, if ever, the original reasons for adopting negro suffrage cease to operate, suffrage will be no more nearly universal in the South than in the North.

Under the Reconstruction laws negro or universal suffrage is not necessarily permanent. State Constitutions are subject to amendment, and the whole question will almost certainly, and at an early day, undergo revision, and wherever the blacks constitute not an absolute majority, it is not doing violence to probability to suppose that the property or some other test will be imposed.

THE fact that several men and women have, within the past year, been strangled to death, otherwise choked and diabolically tortured to life's end, in consequence of the defective education of hangmen and the low stage of the humane art of enabling human beings to dance on nothing and dangle in the air, we say that these sad results of defective education suggest the necessity of having something done in the way of supplying the country with artists fully competent to do "with neatness and dispatch" this sort of business. This suggestion is reinforced by the fact that the man WELSH, whom they undertook to hang at Newark, New Jersey, the other day, was compelled to take some ten or a dozen minutes to die, while in the most awkward manner imaginable dangling by the neck—an exhibition at once a striking commentary on the low state of New Jersey's educational system and the Death Penalty.

It turns out that the dispatch from Gen. BAIRD to Secretary STANTON, just prior to the New Orleans riot and massacre, on which Mr. JOHNSON bases one of his main charges against the Secretary, was interpolated by the President to serve his purpose. Gen. BAIRD notified the Secretary that he anticipated disturbance, informed him what he intended to do, and concluded by saying: "Please instruct me by telegraph." The interpolation by Mr. JOHNSON was the words "at once," so as to make it appear that Mr. STANTON had neglected to respond to a pressing request for instructions. Gen. BAIRD asked for no immediate instructions, and he needed none, for his dispatch informed the Secretary of his intention to do just what he would have been instructed to do.

(From the Pittsburgh Post.)

Up to this time, Mr. Pendleton, of Ohio, seems to be the only candidate on the Democratic side, for the Presidency, who has committed himself to oppose the payment of the bonds in greenbacks and equal taxation, which will be the great question discussed in the campaign. There may be exceptions to this in some of the Eastern States, where there is greater concentration of capital and a large amount invested in bonds, but in the whole of the Missis ippi valley there will be little difference of opinion on this. We shall have more to say of Mr. Pendleton hereafter.

The above is a direct thrust at the HANCOCK-JOHNSON Presidential scheme. The "only Democratic daily" is the latest accession to Mr. PENDLETON, and the remark that he "is the only candidate on the Democratic side for President who is making any headway," at once expounds the motive for going for the Ohio candidate, and suggests the measure Mr. JOHNSON's influence cast for HANCOCK.

We are assured that Commodore VANDERBILT regards the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Road the next field for his strategic operations. We have already referred to the fact that the Pennsylvania Central have been for some time past systematically "running round" this road, and that the management appeared not to be awake to the importance of forming connections that will maintain its character and promote the interest of the stockholders. Into VANDERBILT's object—conceding the above to be well founded—it would be difficult to penetrate, except as to the antagonism between the New York Central and the Pennsylvania Central. The report, to say the least, possesses decided interest to Pittsburgh.

THE *Tribune* persists in calling on Gen. GRANT to resign the office of Secretary of War *ad interim*, because, somehow or other, that would spite ANDREW JOHNSON. Now if there is anything at Washington which the country regards with even more than satisfaction, it is the presence of Gen. GRANT in the War Office. And if there is any event which they would peculiarly regret it would be his displacement to make room for a Johnsonite. The *Tribune* has a hack for doing and proposing things which neither the Republican party nor the country would be glad to see happen,—and this is not the least notable instance of its proclivity in this direction.

If the great Railway Lines would particularly endear themselves to the public, let them either do the Express business themselves, and at reasonable rates, or throw the business open to all, by making exclusive or specially favorable contracts with none. There is hardly any business of like magnitude from which private enterprise is so completely shut off as the Express business. Here is a field in which Commodore VANDERBILT will find room enough for the display of his reformatory powers.

THE defense of Secretary STANTON is likely to prove an event and constitute a new chapter in our political and personal history. The season of assumed triumph the President has enjoyed is about to come to an end, if the character of Secretary STANTON's defense is not totally misrepresented. The country might readily suppose that the famous Secretary who so successfully organized victory over the rebellion, would not suffer defeat at the hands of ANDREW JOHNSON.

MR. JUDD, representative from the Chicago District, is said to be preparing a bill for the more thorough collection of the revenue, in the belief that if honesty can be insured the taxes can be materially reduced and the revenues increased. The whisky tax alone, if collected, would realize the interest on the national debt. Let Congress insure that,—at least make a determined effort.

Growth of Chicago.

Chicago, which in 1831 contained only 12 families, has increased during the years 1860 to 1868 from a population of 109,263 to 230,000. The assessed value of its real and personal property has increased during the same period from $37,053,512 to $192,349,644, while the municipal taxation has risen from $373 315 to $2,489,345. Since the war began, Chicago has paid $24,698,382 taxes to the Federal Government.

During the past year the city has paid $2,569,035 for public improvements, has built 14¾ miles of sewer, paved 29 miles of street, five of them with the Nicolson pavement, which was invented and first applied in Chicago, where the first Nicolson pavements ever laid, now some twelve years old, are still in good preservation. It is estimated that during the past year 7,000 buildings have been erected, at a total cost of $8,000,000. This is fewer than were erected in 1866, but the difference is more than compensated in the great value of many of the blocks and buildings erected during the year, viz.:

Erected at a cost of $800 000 and upward.....2
At a cost of $50,000 and upward.....2
At $100,000 and upward.....4
At $50,000 and upward.....5
At $20,000 and upward.....14
At $10,000 and upward.....41
At $25 000 and upward.....25
At $15,000 and upward.....27
At $10,000 and upward.....35

The following figures represent the extent of business done in ten leading lines:

Receipts of grain.....$9,740,000
Hogs packed.....800,000
Cattle packed.....50,000
Lumber, shingles, &c., sold.....950,000,000
Dry goods (last year $9).....$30,000,000
Groceries.....20,000,000
Hardware.....20,000,000
Boots and shoes.....15,000,000
Clothing.....10,000,000
Crockery.....4,000,000

These foot up a total of about $206,000,000 for the wholesale trade in these articles alone; the total would swell to at least $230,000,000, and the retail business would make another $75,000,000, exclusive of the sales of liquor, and ale, and beer, giving a total of about $305,000,000 worth of commercial business for the year.

The receipts of the railroad systems exceed twelve millions; the receipts for amusements were $668,850.

The manufactures for the year are set down at $77,000,000. For a period of peace, such a growth would be unprecedented, during a time of war, no city of past or present times surpasses it. The growth of Brooklyn and of New York has been enormous during the same period, but throughout the South, especially the West and Northwest, there has been a steady, sound, and healthy growth, of which, however, the growth of Chicago must be conceded to be the magnificent and truly unprecedented culmination.

Vitally Important Legislation.

The people of Pennsylvania expect of their representatives at Harrisburg an early and faithful performance of their pledges on the important railroad questions that will come before them. By the prompt passage of a liberal general railroad law they will do more to deserve the approbation of their constituents than by any other legislation they can conceive. The Reading *Daily Dispatch* speaking on this subject says:

There is one question of vital importance to the whole arena of the commonwealth which demands the attention of the Legislature, and that is railroad legislature before the adjournment of the approaching session. That question is the "Free Railroad Law." The interests immense destiny, and the development of the mighty resources of the great Commonwealth depend upon the action of our law-makers in this matter. The Republican party pledged themselves in every party convention for the past two years to the passage of this law, and the interests and masses of the people have been inexplicable in their inaction to impress the minds of their representatives the necessity of making good those oft-repeated pledges that we are compelled to submit to the monopoly and a continuance of the railroad system in this State. They want no more "log rolling" railroad legislation, which only serves as a premium to fraud, but one which will be conducive to the general good and contribute to the great object of developing our immense wealth and resources which now lie smothered up in obscurity by monopoly. We need not further continue to allude to the neglect to provide made by the the last Assembly to aid in building railroads and opening up new districts, and bear of wealth to the free access of the world. This is one of the few acts in any session of the Legislature of all its earliest practicable moment.

Death of Captain G. W. Norton.

Among the victims of the steamboat explosion at Gallipolis on Saturday, was Captain G. W. Norton, well known to the business men of Pittsburgh, Captain Norton was in this city a few days since, on business connected with the Rolling Mill Company at Ironton, Ohio, of which he was President, and at the time of his death was on his return to Ironton. He was at one time largely interested in the steamboat trade between Wheeling and Cincinnati, and commanded the Alvin Adams, one of the finest boats ever turned out at the hands of Pittsburgh mechanics. Captain Norton was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and was about fifty-three years of age. The Wheeling *Intelligencer*, in a lengthy obituary, says of him:

"He and his brother came to this city in the year 18—, and shortly after that time have been engaged in our iron interests. Latterly their operations have been largely confined to Ironton, where they have a successful nail mill, and also a fine mare in active operation. To Capt. Norton's skill as the manager and director of the concern, and at the time of his death was fully absorbed with the prospects of the future, the success is largely due to labors. But death has cut short all his expectations, and laid low the strong man, the kind and loving husband, parent and brother, and from a wide circle of friends, popular merchants, and from society at large an active, enterprising and useful citizen."

The Hangman of Mrs. Surratt.

If in bringing Gen. Hancock conspicuously before the country as a Presidential candidate, Mr. Johnson intended to get him assailed and killed off, he manifested a good deal of shrewdness and is not likely to be disappointed. The New York *Day Book* bestows upon him the mild epithet quoted above, and sundry other Democratic journals have shown their teeth not less unmistakably. The *Day Book*'s language is as follows:

Hancock was the hangman of Mrs. Surratt. He was one of Holt's bright and shining tools in that illegal, infamous, bloody farce. He was applauded and justly tried by the *fame*, he would be hanged for that deed. Every man, every woman, every child who knows the form of military trial render it any less a murder, according to *fame*. General Hancock cannot excuse himself by saying that he, individually, had no malice. The law allows no such excuse as that.

GOVERNOR BULLOCK, of Massachusetts, in his message refers to the remarkable fact that the deposits in 108 Massachusetts Savings Banks now amount to more than eighty millions of dollars ($80,431,588 71), with a surplus of earnings of $8,178, 877 01, making a total of $88,804,460 72. Five-eighths of this have accumulated within the last ten years. The increase of deposits during the year has been $12,699,319 40, against an increase of $7,798,781 79 the preceding twelve months. The additional advance of 1867 is owing to the enhanced interest paid by savings institutions, and their payment of large extra dividends within three years. Only think of the depositors in the Savings Banks owning thirty millions of Federal Bonds, and eleven millions of National Bank stocks!

THE Black Crook, after having been performed four hundred and seventy-five times at Niblo's Garden, New York, has been withdrawn. The total receipts were $760,000, of which nearly $15,000 went to the Government. It has been performed at nearly every theatrical city and town in the country, and the aggregate receipts of these performances must have been as much more. Its withdrawal is not likely to be permanent, for the demand for that sort of thing is not likely to die out altogether, and more's the pity.

IT is a subject of congratulation that, of the hundred and twenty students now at Freiberg, fifty are Americans, and have distinguished themselves in their studies. Three of them stand high, for young men, as scientific inventors. If our own country furnishes nearly two-fifths of